

Kiwanis[®]

YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES (effective October 2016)

All adults working with youth under the age of 18 at any Kiwanis event are expected to read/understand, agree to, and abide by these guidelines.

Education: Every Kiwanis club is expected to educate its members on the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines. Each year, a club should provide members with a copy of the Guidelines with educational training—informing them of the highest standards of conduct and awareness. In addition, every Kiwanis district is expected to help inform and educate. During every district-produced convention and conference, the district is expected to provide an educational forum or workshop regarding the Guidelines and best practices for adults who work with youth. Districts should use materials provided by Kiwanis International. Every member should attend a training annually—whether offered by the club or district, or via the online tool.

Chaperone: A chaperone is defined as a Kiwanis member, faculty member, parent, legal guardian, or person who is *in loco parentis* (in the place of a parent), 21 years of age or older, who has been approved by the school or agency and registered with the school or agency to accompany the youth members at the specific event.

Criminal History Background Checks: Kiwanis clubs are required to have a clear criminal history background check—conducted and verified by Kiwanis International—of any member serving as a Kiwanis advisor to any Service Leadership Program club (Aktion Club, Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club and K-Kids). Kiwanis International's criteria shall be followed to determine whether the background check is considered 'clear.' Background checks shall be valid for no more than two years. SLP clubs that petition to charter will only be approved once the appointed Kiwanis advisor has a clear criminal history background check conducted by Kiwanis International. Clubs are strongly encouraged to ensure confidential background checks for all adults who will work directly with youth outside of the school and/or who may not have undergone a background check. The criminal history background check should conform to applicable local and state/provincial laws and requirements.

Kiwanis International requires clear criminal history background checks conducted by its provider for all adults working with youth at all Kiwanis International-sponsored events. These include the Key Club International Convention, the Key Club Governor and Administrator training conference, the Key Club International Leadership Conference, and any Key Leader weekend. All district chairpersons and committee members for all Service Leadership Programs are required to have a clear criminal history background check conducted by Kiwanis International. A district may also require criminal history background checks for other adults working with youth as part of district programs or events. (See Kiwanis International Policy B and Procedure 197 for complete information regarding criminal history background checks.)

Overnight Stays: While attending a Kiwanis event that requires overnight stay in a hotel or camp/conference setting, adult chaperoning must include no fewer than one adult male for each 10 or part of 10 youth males, and one adult female for each 10 or part of 10 youth females. Except for a parent sharing a sleeping room or other sleeping quarter (e.g., tent) with his/her own child, no adult should share a hotel or dormitory sleeping room or other sleeping quarter with a youth. In the event that sleeping quarters consist of multiple beds, such as a bunkhouse or camp cabin, adults may share the sleeping quarters with youth members of the same gender, provided that two or more adults are present.

Transportation: When transporting youth, the best practice is having three people in the car at all times with documented approval from the parent or guardian for the transportation arrangements. When both of these

