



Helping children and youth in adversity build coping skills and resilience to create positive futures

Child and Youth Volunteer Policy

This policy is designed to delineate requirements for youth volunteers at any Rainbow Days affiliated event. Rainbow Days, Inc., reserves the right to selectively accept or decline the participation of youth volunteers on a case-by-case basis who wish to support our mission and core values. It is imperative that the children and families served by Rainbow Days are in the presence of caring, mature, and responsible volunteers throughout the duration of the event.

Youth volunteers should demonstrate positive attitudes, mature behavior, and serve as role models for the children and families Rainbow Days serves. In addition, the supervision and safety of all youth event attendees' are of the utmost importance

For the purpose of this document: children are defined as ages 7-11, youth are defined as ages 12-17 and chaperones are defined as an adult volunteer (preferably parent or guardian) who is responsible for the supervision of the child/youth volunteer.

All youth volunteers must be interviewed PRIOR to the volunteer event by a RDI Director and/or Event Coordinator and will not be permitted to volunteer until after the interview process has been completed and approved. The youth volunteer screening is intended to determine if the applicant is eligible to serve as a volunteer. Due to the age similarity of the youth volunteer and children and youth served by Rainbow Days, it is essential that the volunteer role, outlined below, is clearly defined and understood completely by the youth volunteer and their chaperone.

1. Youth (*ages 12-17*) are allowed to volunteer only if accompanied by an approved chaperone (preferably parent/guardian) who has completed a Rainbow Days volunteer application, with a minimum ratio of three youth per chaperone.
2. All youth volunteers must complete a youth volunteer application.
3. All chaperones must complete a volunteer application, pass a criminal background check, and be approved prior to volunteering.
4. Projects for youth volunteers must be approved in advance by the Event Coordinator for that particular event.
5. Parental permission and proper insurance coverage are required for each participant. Rainbow Days, Inc. does not provide Worker's Compensation Insurance coverage for volunteer participants, who are excluded from requirements for such coverage by law.
6. Youth volunteers and chaperones may not take pictures and/or record video while at the events, under any circumstances, and are prohibited from obtaining telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, or home addresses from program clients.
7. Youth volunteers and chaperones may not bring friends, family members or any unauthorized people to their volunteer placement.
8. All youth and their chaperones must stay at assigned station(s) unless approved to move by Event Coordinator.
9. All chaperones *must supervise* their youth and/or child(ren) at all times.
10. All volunteers, including youth, children, parents, guardians and chaperones, must abide by the rules, guidelines and procedures of the organization and RDI staff, as stated in the Volunteer Manual including proper dress code.