



## Children and Youth Volunteer Policy

The Children and Youth Volunteer Policy is designed to delineate requirements for youth volunteers at any Rainbow Days 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, a diligent work ethic and serve as role models for the children and families Rainbow Days serves.** In addition, the supervision and safety of all youth volunteers by responsible adult chaperones is of utmost importance.

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**CHILDREN VOLUNTEERS, ages 7-11**, are only allowed to volunteer with Rainbow Days in a **limited capacity** and on a **case-by-case basis with their parent and with prior approval from Rainbow Days' staff**. This pre-approval is limited and an exception rather than the rule. Each request will be approved or denied on a case by case basis. If approval is granted, all Youth Policies outlined below must be adhered to by the child and the chaperone. Children under the age of 7 are not allowed to volunteer at Rainbow Days' special events, but they are welcome to help parents with a take-home volunteer project and/or with collecting donations.

**YOUTH VOLUNTEERS, 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.

1. All youth volunteers must complete a Rainbow Days Volunteer Application.
2. All chaperones must also complete a Rainbow Days Volunteer Application and pass a criminal background check prior to volunteering.
3. All youth volunteers must have their parents' permission to volunteer which is included under 'Minor Statement and Release' in the Volunteer Application.
4. 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.
5. Youth volunteers and chaperones may not bring friends, family members or any unauthorized people to their volunteer placement.
6. All youth and their chaperones must stay at assigned station(s) unless approved to move by the Volunteer Coordinator.
7. All chaperones *must supervise* their youth and/or child(ren) at all times.
8. 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 Rainbow Days Volunteer Handbook including proper dress code.

**All youth volunteers, ages 16 and higher, that wish to volunteer independently without a chaperone must be interviewed PRIOR to the volunteer event by a RDI Director and/or Volunteer Coordinator and will not be permitted to volunteer without a chaperone, 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 alone 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 above, is clearly defined and understood completely by the youth volunteer and their chaperone.

Rainbow Days' Volunteer Application may be found online: <https://rainbowdays.org/more-ways-to-help/volunteer/volunteer-application/>

For Questions about Volunteering with Rainbow Days, please contact Sunni Roaten, Rainbow Days' Volunteer Coordinator, at [SunniR@rainbowdays.org](mailto:SunniR@rainbowdays.org) or 214-217-3833.