

# Volunteer Youth Policy

Samaritan's Purse values the impact youth make in the name of Jesus Christ. It is our goal for this policy to provide a safe environment for both youth and adults.

## For This Policy

- *A youth will be defined as a person who is 14 years of age through 17 years of age.*
- *An adult will be defined as a person 18 years of age or older.*
- *An adult leader / chaperone will be defined as an adult who is 21 years of age or older.*
- *Youth Leader will be defined as the adult leader who is the main contact person for the youth group.*
- *Volunteers will be defined as all youth and all adults who are not employees of Samaritan's Purse.*
- *A Youth Group is defined as a group of youth and adult leaders from a church, school or civic organization. (See Section III of this document for Youth Group Guidelines.)*

## Section I. General Youth Guidelines

1. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age at the time they volunteer.
2. All youth and at least one of his/her parents must complete the Youth Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability form. This form requires a **notarized** parent/legal guardian signature if the parent/legal guardian is not accompanying the youth on the trip. Without this form youth will not be allowed to volunteer.
3. To ensure safety and legal compliance, Youth ages 14-15 are allowed to participate in the following activities only: cleaning and polishing equipment/vehicles, clearing lots, debris removal, waterproofing foundations, painting, landscaping and site clean-up, gift bag preparation, folding t-shirts, restocking vehicles with t-shirts and Bibles, office clerical work, and other similar tasks. Youth ages 16-17 are allowed to participate in general construction tasks which may include working on a short ladder indoors.
4. Youth are **never** permitted to work standing on a window sill, outdoor ladder, scaffolding or similar equipment, use power tools or machines (electric or gas), operate motor vehicles, be an outside helper on a motor vehicle, or do any work on or about a roof.
5. An individual adult must never be alone with an individual youth, unless the adult is a family member or legal guardian of the youth. This applies to all volunteers, Samaritan's Purse staff, host church staff, host church members, homeowners, etc.
6. Separate sleeping areas will be provided for males and females. Males are not allowed to visit in the female sleeping area and vice versa. Areas will be designated for youth groups where males and females may visit together provided an adult leader is present. "Lights out" time in the bedrooms and other areas will be enforced.
7. Whenever youth are present at a site, private individual showers will be provided, if possible. If private, individual showers are not available, a shower schedule will be provided for all volunteers at the site to follow. The schedule will have separate times for adult men, adult women, youth males and youth females. Volunteers should change clothes in bathroom stalls or shower stalls and should be fully dressed when arriving at or leaving bathrooms or shower trailers.
8. Youth should never be left alone at a work site or be allowed to leave the site without a parent/legal guardian/grandparent/chaperone.
9. Youth are expected to be present at meals and participate in devotions and share time along with other volunteers.
10. Samaritan's Purse reserves the right to decline youth and/or a youth group for reasons such as, but not limited to, lack of age-appropriate work available at the site or housing /shower facility limitations.

## Section II. Individual Youth Volunteers

1. Youth ages 14 & 15 must be accompanied by their parent/legal guardian/grandparent unless they are part of a Youth Group. (See Section III of this document.)
2. Youth ages 16 & 17 must be accompanied by an adult chaperone unless they are part of a Youth Group. (See Section III of this document.)
3. Parents/legal guardians/grandparents accompanying their 14 & 15 year old child and adult chaperones who are responsible for 16 & 17 year olds will be responsible for enforcement of this policy. Samaritan's Purse staff will address youth issues that arise with the parent/legal guardian/grandparent/adult chaperone.

**Section III. Youth Group Guidelines**

1. Youth groups must have both male and female adult leaders who are not related to each other when a group has both male and female youth members. Married, dating and engaged couples are considered to be related.
2. Youth groups are required to have an adult leader to youth ratio of 1:3. If the group arrives without this ratio, the entire group will be sent home.
3. Youth groups will not be mixed with members from another youth group on work sites. On each work site there must be at least two unrelated adult leaders, one male leader and one female leader if both male and female youth are present. Youth members should never be left alone at a work site or be allowed to leave the site without leaders.
4. Youth groups are expected to be present and on time at meals, devotions and share time along with other volunteers. They may hold additional separate meetings for their group however meeting space is not guaranteed.
5. Leadership for each youth group will be responsible for enforcement of this policy and all other rules and instructions of Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse staff will address youth issues that arise with the youth leadership.
6. The Leadership of a youth group is required to review, sign, and return the Youth Leader Covenant. Failure to sign and return the Covenant will result in your group forfeiting its reserved time slot.

Disaster volunteers: complete the Covenant and give it to the Volunteer Coordinator upon arrival on site.

Rebuild volunteers: **2 weeks prior** to your trip, send a signed copy of the Covenant to Samaritan's Purse either by mail, fax or email:

Mail	FAX	Email
Volunteer Coordinator North American Ministries Samaritan's Purse P.O. Box 3000 Boone, NC 28607	336-667-5620	<a href="mailto:disasterrelief@samaritan.org">disasterrelief@samaritan.org</a>

# Youth Leader Covenant

## For this covenant:

- A youth is defined as a person who is 14 years of age through 17 years of age.
- An adult is defined as a person 18 years of age or older.
- An adult leader / chaperone is defined as an adult who is 21 years of age or older.
- Youth leader is defined as the adult leader who is the main contact person for the youth group.
- Volunteers are defined as all youth and all adults who are not employees of Samaritan's Purse.
- A Youth Group is defined as a group of youth and adult leaders from a church, school or civic organization. (See Section III of Volunteer Youth Policy for Youth Group Guidelines.)

**The youth leader must review the Samaritan's Purse rules found in the Pre-Trip Information and Youth Policy. The youth leader assumes responsibility for his/her group complying with these rules. Any group that is not in compliance will be sent home.**

## Youth Leader agrees to follow these guidelines:

1. I agree to pray for our team members, the homeowners our team will serve, and the Samaritan's Purse staff who will be hosting our team.
2. I agree that our youth group team will maintain a leader/youth ratio of 1:3. I understand that our team will not be permitted to work or stay on site unless that ratio is met.
3. I agree to have the Youth Volunteer Waiver of Liability complete and signed upon arrival. I understand this form for youth must be signed by their parent or legal guardian and **notarized** if the parent/legal guardian is not accompanying the youth on the trip. I understand that our team will not be allowed to work or stay on site until the signed form is provided.
4. I will encourage youth as they develop a servant's heart and to help prepare them to share their faith. In addition, I agree to support the Samaritan's Purse rules of conduct, to inform all team members of the guidelines prior to arrival on site, and to enforce these policies.
5. I understand it is our team's responsibility to provide transportation for our team. I understand it is Samaritan's Purse responsibility to provide housing accommodations, meals, tools, and safety equipment for our team.

**I have read and understand the Pre-Trip Information and Youth Policy. As youth leader and on behalf of my team, we agree to comply with each of these rules. I/we understand that failure to comply may result in the entire team being sent home at the team's expense. I understand that failure to sign and return the Covenant will result in my group forfeiting its reserved time slot.**

Youth Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Samaritan's Purse Work Site Location \_\_\_\_\_ Trip Dates \_\_\_\_\_

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