



Underage Volunteers

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries does not maintain any volunteer positions that involve the supervision or custody of minors. As a general rule and best practice our volunteers should not supervise or manage children under the age of 16. Children under the age of 16 years old must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times. Children under the age of 8 are not allowed to volunteer as safety issues can arise. Best practice also includes asking the parent and guardian of young volunteers to attend our volunteer orientation.

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries recognizes that program sites utilize volunteers in different capacities. It is understood that underage volunteers provide a valuable resource to our program sites, but it also recognizes that in our small community it is a lot to ask a child to keep personal information private. Therefore The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries asks that those program sites who choose to have underage volunteers present with guests take great care in explaining to both the parent/guardian and youth BEFORE the volunteer time starts the critical need to keep our guests' personal information private and to themselves. If the volunteers cannot agree to this stipulation they should not be allowed to volunteer.

Children are encouraged to make a difference by assisting with food drives. With their parents'/guardians' help, they can do a food collection and pass the donations on to one of our sites or they can join their parents by volunteering for our Stuff-a-Truck team.

In addition, because of the nature of our programs, safety issues might make young volunteers more vulnerable to injury and harm. All care must be taken to maintain site-specific best practices that keep young volunteers in the care of their guardians and safe.

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries asks that any and all incidents involving questionable or inappropriate behavior related to possible physical and/or sexual misconduct or physical and/or sexual abuse shall be immediately reported to the site leader. Additionally, SSKP asks that under no circumstances shall a youth be allowed to separate from their parent and/or guardian and roam; a youth will not remain alone in the building at any time; and volunteers should not drive youth home alone in a vehicle under any circumstances.

Volunteers are responsible for knowing the possible impact of their words and actions in ministering to the emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of persons who come to them for help or over whom they have any kind of authority. Volunteers must nurture safety within relationships by being attentive to self-care, education, and the importance of referring those in need to supportive and helpful resources.

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