

Policy Regarding Young Volunteers

We see great value in giving young people an opportunity to help those in need, but we must be aware of their inexperience. Certain laws of the State of West Virginia and Habitat guidelines make it necessary to enforce policies relating to children at our worksites.

Age Requirements

- No one under the age of 16 may be on a worksite during construction activity. No one under the age of 16 can volunteer at the ReStore.
- Ages 16 & 17 may perform general construction work by may not operate certain power tools or equipment. The site supervisor will determine suitability of the volunteer to use power tools.
- Proof of age may be required (i.e. photo ID, birth certificate, school ID, etc.)

Forms

- All persons under the age of 18 must have permission from a parent or guardian before participating at a worksite. The "PARENT/GUARDIAN RELEASE" shall represent parent or guardian permission for the young volunteer to participate according to Habitat's policies.

Group Information

- Parents or guardians, group chaperones, counselors or advisors participating at the jobsite or the ReStore will be responsible for the behavior of all young volunteers assigned to their care. They should also assist the supervisor in assigning tasks.
- If an organized group of young volunteers is participating at the site, the group must provide one adult chaperone for every six volunteers. The chaperone will work with Habitat personnel to ensure the safety and good behavior of the young volunteers.

Miscellaneous

- Habitat's construction site and ReStore regulations and safety policies apply to young volunteers.
- The construction site supervisor or another member of Habitat staff will determine the young volunteer's suitability to begin or continue work.
- Given the nature of construction activities, compliance with the site supervisor or Habitat staff member's rules regarding safety practices, behavior and volunteer work assignments is mandatory.

Safety is of paramount importance and shall be the determining factor in all decision regarding young volunteers. Horseplay and lack of attention cause accidents and will not be allowed.