



## 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 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.*

### Section I. General Youth Guidelines

1. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age at the time they serve. No exceptions will be made.
2. All youth and at least one of his/her parents must complete the following forms. A youth who arrives on site without these forms will be sent home at his/her own expense. No exceptions will be made.
  - Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability - Minors form (requires notarized parent/legal guardian signature)
  - Youth Volunteer Emergency Contact and Medical Information form (requires notarized parent/legal guardian signature)
  - U. S. Disaster Response Volunteer Safety form.
3. Youth ages 14 & 15 are allowed to participate only in the following activities: 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. They may not work standing on a window sill, ladder, scaffolding or similar equipment.
4. Youth ages 16 & 17 are permitted to do general construction tasks. They are not permitted to use power tools or machines, 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' 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 when their youth are present. Lights out in the bedrooms and other areas will be enforced.
7. Whenever youth are present at a site, private individual showers will be provided. 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 parent/ legal guardian/chaperones.
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 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. The parent/legal guardian/adult chaperone must work with the youth on site unless they are part of a Youth Group. (See Section III of this document.)
3. Parents 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/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. No exceptions will be made.
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 2 weeks prior to arrival on site. Failure to sign and return the Covenant will result in your group forfeiting its spot.

Please send to:

<b>Mail</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
Volunteer Coordinator U.S. Disaster Relief 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 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.*

**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 all paperwork completed and signed upon arrival. I understand that all paperwork for youth must be signed by their parent or legal guardian and notarized. I understand that our team will not be allowed to work or stay on site until the signed paperwork is provided. Paperwork includes the following:
  - Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability - Minors (must be notarized)
  - Youth Volunteer Emergency Contact and Medical Information (must be notarized)
  - Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability - Adults
  - Adult Volunteer Emergency Contact and Medical Information
  - U. S. Disaster Response Volunteer Safety (all volunteers)
  - Disaster Relief Volunteer Skills Survey (for adults)
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 as outlined in the Volunteer Policies & Procedures Handbook, 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. This signed covenant must be received in the U. S. Disaster Relief Volunteer Coordinator's Office two weeks prior to the scheduled trip. I understand that failure to sign and return the Covenant will result in my group forfeiting its spot.**

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

**Group Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Samaritan's Purse Work Site Location** \_\_\_\_\_