











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 the following policies relating to children at our worksites.

-  No one under the age of 14 may be on a worksite during construction activity.
-  Ages 14 – 16 are welcome to perform tasks such as landscaping or painting if no construction activity is ongoing in that area. They are not allowed to participate in heavy, elevated or skilled construction tasks.
-  Ages 16 & 17 may perform general construction work but may not operate certain power tools or equipment. The site supervisor will determine suitability of the volunteer to use power tools.
-  All persons under the age of 18 must have permission from a parent or guardian before participating at a worksite. The "PARENT/GUARDIAN RELEASE" included in this packet shall represent parent or guardian permission for the young volunteer to participate according to Habitat's policies.
-  A completed "VOLUNTEER INFORMATION" form also must be delivered to the jobsite for each young volunteer. This is in addition to the "PARENT/GUARDIAN RELEASE".
-  Habitat's construction site regulations and safety policies apply to young volunteers.
-  Parents or guardians, group chaperones, counselors or advisors participating at the jobsite will be responsible for the behavior of all young volunteers assigned to their care. They should also assist the supervisor in assigning tasks.
-  The construction site supervisor or another member of the 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.
-  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.
-  Safety is of paramount importance and shall be the determining factor in all decisions regarding young volunteers. Horseplay and lack of attention cause accidents and will not be allowed.