

Participant Code of Conduct

When working with youth and other vulnerable populations,

Always:

- Follow the policies and procedures of the organization you are working with and complete any training needed for the role you are serving
- Treat everyone with respect
- Provide the example you wish others to follow
- Recognize that caution is required even in sensitive moments, such as dealing with unkind words or behavior, bullying, bereavement, or abuse
- Plan activities that involve groups of three or more - or at least which are within sight or hearing of others
- Respect everyone's right to personal privacy
- Provide access for young people to talk to others about any concerns they may have with the appropriate person
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- Avoid situations that compromise or are unacceptable within your relationship of trust with young people
- Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned

Never:

- Permit abusive youth peer activities (e.g. bullying). Tell someone immediately if you hear or see this going on, or have concern that this may be going on
- Have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- Exaggerate or trivialize child-abuse and child protection issues
- Show favoritism to any individual in your care
- Make suggestive remarks or gestures, even as a joke

What to do if a young person tells you they are being neglected, mistreated, or abused:

- Tell them you will listen and will pass the information to the appropriate authority figure
- Be understanding and reassuring – do not give your opinion or be judgmental
- Write careful notes of what was said using the actual words, include the time and date
- Tell the organizational person in authority and your Award Leader immediately

If you are concerned

- Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or were told. Include the time and date and full names of those involved
- Pass your notes to a person in authority immediately.