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Managing the Risks of Deploying Youthful Volunteers

A Risk Management Webinar
October 1, 2008


Generous funding for this webinar was provided by the Public Entity Risk Institute (www.riskinstitute.org).

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Before Selecting And Screening Youth Volunteers

- Functions?
- Supervision?
- Time commitment?
- Location?
- Benefits?




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Selecting and Screening Youth Volunteers.

- Based on duties.
- Written application.
- Parental permission.
- References.
- Driving record.
- Criminal history records depends on state laws.




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**Risk Management Review:
Key Questions**


- What can go wrong?
- How can we prevent it?
- What will we do if it happens?
- How will we pay for it?



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Program Models That Involve Youth Volunteers




- One-time or on-going.
- Group or individual.
- Families with children.

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Considerations For Programs That Involve Youth Volunteers

- Age
- Physical development
- Safety
- Academics
- Social development



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Considerations For Programs That Involve Youth Volunteers

- Organizational readiness
- Selecting supervisors
- Meaningful work to do.



Right To Decline, Or Obligation To Accept?

- Youth volunteers referred from probation.
- School community service programs.




Important Questions

- What is the organization's mission?
- Can accepting young volunteers help achieve the mission?
- Does the organization have the capacity to adequately supervise young volunteers?
- How could being a volunteer benefit the youth?

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Readiness Checklist: Policies


- Safety
- Behavior toward others
- Punctuality
- Dos and Don'ts



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Readiness Checklist: Supervision



- Overall.
- Assigned to staff member.
- Group with own supervisors.
- Liaison with referral agencies.

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Readiness Checklist: Emergency Procedures

Is your organization prepared for emergencies?



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