Managing the Risks of Deploying Youthful Volunteers

A Risk Management Webinar
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Before Selecting And Screening Youth Volunteers

• Functions?
• Supervision?
• Time commitment?
• Location?
• Benefits?

Selecting and Screening Youth Volunteers.

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

Program Models That Involve Youth Volunteers
• One-time or on-going.
• Group or individual.
• Families with children.

Considerations For Programs That Involve Youth Volunteers
• Age
• Physical development
• Safety
• Academics
• Social development
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?
Readiness Checklist: Policies

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

Readiness Checklist: Supervision

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

Readiness Checklist: Emergency Procedures

Is your organization prepared for emergencies?