

GENERAL RULES

The following are Diocese of Wilmington policies and are to be followed in all activities that involve young people.

- Maintain the following ratio of cleared adults to youth participants:
 - Two cleared adults per the initial 7 youth for 8th grade and below
 - Two cleared adults per the initial 10 high school youth
 - One cleared adult per each additional 10 youth in all age groups
 - Never one cleared adult working alone with youth
 - Cleared adults should be in proportion to the gender breakdown of the youth participants attending the event
 - Reasonable consideration should be given to the number of cleared adults required for events with greater number of participants

- Obtain written consent for all participants in one of the following ways:
 - Annual consent: required yearly and kept on file for all on-site events less than 6 hours long (see Form A)
 - Event specific consent: required for all events, on-site or off site, overnight or day-long, that are more than 6 hours in length (see Form B)
 - Save all Consent Forms in a secure location for a period of two years

The following is strongly advised, though not mandated.

- Explain and utilize the buddy system: youth participants should never be alone. Using the buddy system means an intentionally pairing of young people that fosters mutual respect and responsibility. As they develop relationships, young people often pair themselves with friends. When using the buddy system, consider the following:
 - While you might think breaking apart friends will encourage young people to make new friends, be cautious. It may also create emotional hardships for young people and ultimately, for you.
 - Watch for discipline problems. Avoid pairing young people that have an inappropriate effect on each other.