

YOUTH PROTECTION STANDARDS

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

MASTER WELLNESS VOLUNTEER ONLINE TRAINING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020
DR. LAURA A. HUEBINGER

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WHY ARE VOLUNTEERS (LIKE YOU!) IMPORTANT?

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- In 2019,
 - 181 Master Wellness Volunteers were engaged in 2,027 educational events, reaching 56,176 Texans, reporting 8,689 hours of service!
 - Approximately 20% of volunteer activities supported the Better Living for Texans (BLT) program.

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WHY ARE VOLUNTEERS (LIKE YOU!) IMPORTANT?



- This allows Texans to be served with relevant educational information to improve their lives. This equates to approximately 18 hours per month per county that allows County Extension Agents to work on other Agency priorities.
- WOW! We couldn't do it without YOU!

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SCREENING VOLUNTEERS

- Why?
 - Make sure the volunteer's needs match the organization's needs
 - Part of the risk management process
 - Protect people and ensure a safe environment
 - Protect organization



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WHO IS SCREENED?

- All **direct volunteers**
- Any adult who meets the following criteria:
 - Provides unpaid support for Extension through face-to-face contact
 - Provides a learning experience for adults or youth within Extension
 - Has an individual volunteer application on file with the appropriate program area
 - Has a position description on file
 - Has passed a criminal background check within the past 3 years

WHAT KIND OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK IS CONDUCTED?

- Conducted through VolunteerNow
 - Nonprofit group designated through legislation that all state agencies with volunteers use to conduct background searches
- Multi-jurisdictional records
- National database search of sex offender records – includes all 50 state of sex offender registries
- Texas state records (DPS)

INFORMATION REQUIRED

- Full, legal name (first, middle, last)
- Address
- Date of birth
- Gender
- First five digits of social security number
- Driver's License number
- Race/Ethnicity (*optional*)

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WHEN IS SCREENING CONDUCTED?

- Initial screening of a volunteer is conducted when he/she applies for a volunteer role
- Screenings are processed on a weekly basis
 - Proof of previous screenings may be accepted
- Volunteers must be screened prior to fulfilling any volunteer roles
- Re-screening of all Extension volunteers is conducted every three years
 - Note. 4-H Volunteers are screened on a “4-H year” basis. For example, a 4-H volunteer screened during the 2018-2019 4-H year (Sept 1, 2018-Aug 31, 2019), needs to be re-screened at the beginning of the 2020-2021 4-H year.

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HOW MUCH DOES SCREENING COST?

- Non 4-H Volunteers: All processed through paper forms
 - Pay \$10 for each screening (every three years)
 - One check per county submission is required with Transmittal Form
 - Master Volunteer Application (paper form):
 - http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/19-20_yps_application.pdf
- 4-H Volunteers: All processed through 4-H CONNECT
 - Annual \$10 volunteer application fee
 - Credit cards accepted (or a check through your county office)
 - Volunteers must enroll each year

FOLLOW-UP TO SCREENING

- Volunteer Status assigned
 - Approved/Cleared
 - Restricted from handling funds
 - Restricted from driving youth other than own children
 - Pending
 - Denied
- All information is kept confidential. Counties do not know details.
- Correspondence
 - Non-4-H Volunteers: Updated spreadsheet sent to county office
 - 4-H Volunteers: Volunteer profile updated in 4-H CONNECT. Counties can generate reports.
 - Letter correspondence mailed if restricted, denied, or pending for more information.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

- For our volunteers serving in overnight roles or chaperons for multiple days, an additional training is required – Child Protection Training.
- <https://traintraq.tamus.edu/External/ExternalGatewayLogon.aspx>
- Password changes periodically, so contact your County Extension Agent (who can contact the YPS office) for the current password.



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POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (PYD)

- PYD is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.



<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development>

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POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (PYD)

Positive Experiences

+

Positive Relationships

+

Positive Environments

=

Positive Youth Development

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FIVE C'S IN YOUNG PEOPLE

- Positive Youth Development encompasses psychological, behavioral, and social characteristics that are called the “Five Cs.” (Zarrett & Lerner, 2008)
 - Competence
 - Confidence
 - Connection
 - Character
 - Caring/Compassion

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FIVE C'S IN YOUNG PEOPLE

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- Youth with the five thriving characteristics are on a path to attain a sixth C:
 - Contribution
 - to self, family, community, and civil society
- And the sixth C leads to positive adulthood (*Zarrett & Lerner, 2008*)

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/whatispyd20120829.pdf>

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AND **YOU** HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THAT ADULT TO DEVELOP THESE SKILLS!

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QUESTIONS?

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