ACS YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

The American Chemical Society (“ACS”) is committed to offering a safe and enjoyable environment for all individuals in its community, especially youth who participate in ACS Hosted events, programs, and activities (collectively “ACS Youth Events”). ACS Youth Events include events held in person and online. As a part of that commitment, ACS has developed a policy that reflects its values of ethical behavior and protects the safety of youth.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all ACS Youth Events, although the requirements of this policy are not applicable in the following situations:

- Non-ACS events, which are the responsibility of the host.
- ACS Youth Events hosted by International Chemical Sciences Chapters and/or Student Chapters of the ACS.

❖ Please note: International Chemical Sciences Chapters are subject to their country’s own local rules and regulations regarding events involving minors. Student Chapters, Graduate Student Organizations and ChemClubs, of ACS are subordinate organizations of the institution in which they are formed and not of ACS; therefore, they are subject to the policies of the institution.

BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENT

One way to help ensure the safety of children is to implement a background check requirement for all adult volunteers who will interact with minors at an ACS Youth Event. While no screening method is guaranteed to eliminate all risks, a thorough process can help identify individuals with a history of inappropriate conduct with minors and deter dangerous people from applying or gaining access to youth. Therefore, all adults associated with ACS, or an ACS chartered Local Section, Division, region, or committee (collectively “ACS Units”) who work directly with or have regular access to minors must undergo a background check.

NOTE: Background checks are not required for all volunteer roles; only volunteer roles at ACS Youth Events require a background check.

For detailed information related to the background check screening process, please see the ACS Background Check Policy & Procedure.

VOLUNTEERING AT ACS YOUTH EVENTS

All adult volunteers at ACS Youth Events must undergo the ACS Background Check. The ACS Background Check must be completed prior to participating in an ACS Youth Event. Failure to either complete the ACS Background Check or refusal to undergo the ACS Background Check will prohibit an individual from volunteering at the ACS Youth Event.
REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Adults must undergo the ACS Background Check to screen for offenses that would disqualify them from volunteering at any ACS Youth Event.

(2) All volunteers must report any suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse involving a minor, to the proper authorities within 24 hours. See REPORTING POTENTIAL HARM OF MINORS.

NOTE: Background checks from other sources or providers will not be accepted. No exceptions.

REPORTING POTENTIAL HARM OF MINORS

❖ Emergencies
   In case of an emergency, call 911 immediately.

❖ Reports of Known or Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Minors
   Anyone participating in an ACS Youth Event who knows, suspects, or receives information indicating that a minor has been abused or neglected, or who has other concerns about the safety of minors must notify the local coordinator of the ACS Youth Event.

   Any participant who, in good faith, reports a violation of this policy shall not be subject to retaliation. Concerns may be reported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to whistleblower@acs.org or via one of the anonymous methods listed below. Please reference “ACS” or the “American Chemical Society” in the subject line of any written submissions.
   
   • Website: https://www.lighthouse-services.com/acs
   • Toll-free telephone number: 855-710-0009 or 800-216-1288 (Spanish)
   • E-mail: reports@lighthouse-services.com
   • Fax: (215) 689-3885

❖ Questions
   Questions about this policy may be directed to volunteerpolicy@acs.org.

KEY DEFINITIONS

ACS Background Checks refer to the screening process conducted by the third-party provider.

ACS Youth Event includes but is not limited to any organized event, activity, or program that is hosted or sponsored by an ACS Unit in-person or online that involves participation with minors.

Abuse or Neglect of Minors refers to any unlawful infliction of physical or mental harm, or threat of harm, sexual abuse, exploitation, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a minor.

Minor or Youth are used interchangeably throughout this policy and means any person under 18.

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