



KIDS COME FIRST

**So you want to be a West Broadway Youth Outreach volunteer.
Great Choice!**

We have the best kids and volunteer core in the city.

There are a few things that you need to know and need to be done before you become official.

1. Fill out a volunteer application form and return it to us so we can check your references.
2. Sign the Volunteer Contract and Oath of Confidentiality
3. Fill out and return a child abuse registry check *.
4. Go to the Public Safety building (2nd floor) and have a criminal record check done by the police.** It costs around \$30. Having a criminal record does not automatically disqualify you from becoming a volunteer but we need to know.

After those 4 things are done, we can figure out a program that works best with your interests and schedule for you to volunteer. When you pick a regular program that you'd like to volunteer at, we expect you to show up regularly and on time. If you can't make it to a program, or are going to be late, please give us a call or send us an email to let us know so we don't worry about you. Also, if you have some free time and would like to volunteer for a program you don't usually come to, just give us a call and come on over! In case we have a special outing or program location gets changed, we want to make sure that you can find us!

***We also need to see two pieces of identification**

****If you have had a criminal record check or Child Abuse Registry check done in the past year we will accept an official copy.**





KIDS COME FIRST

At WBYO, we expect the best from our kids and hold them accountable for their behaviour, The three rules that we have for the behaviour of any kid at WBYO are:

- 1) Use appropriate language.
- 2) Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- 3) Treat others the way you want to be treated.

We also expect the adults who interact with WBYO kids look out for the best interests of the kids. Our philosophy is always that the *kids come first*, and underlying this basic principle, we have the following expectations of any volunteer, staff, or practicum student who interacts with them at the program.

1) ROLE MODEL EXPECTATIONS.

When you choose to work or volunteer at WBYO, you are agreeing to be a positive role model for West Broadway kids. This means living up to the same expectations that we have for them: use appropriate language, keep your hands and feet to yourself and treat children, staff, volunteers, and parents at WBYO with respect. The best way for children to learn positive behaviour is to see it in action.

2) BE PREPARED.

Show up ready for the day ahead. This means coming on time, well rested and with what you need for the day's activities. This might include a bathing suit and towel if we're going swimming, running shoes if we're playing sports, a water bottle and hat if we're in sun all day, etc. If you take care of yourself and your own health, you will be a lot more help to the kids.

3) BE ENGAGED.

As the kids get to know you, they will be excited to see you and interact with you. We take a hands-on approach at WBYO, meaning that we think the kids will get the most out of interacting with you if you are right there alongside them, sweating in the basketball court, tossing them in the pool, or telling them a joke. The kids don't get to benefit from your awesome personality if you sit in the corner texting, listening to your i-pod, or chatting with other staff.

4) BE PROFESSIONAL.

Being professional means understanding our boundaries and limitations. We are mandated to be a recreational program. If we cross that boundary and take on a role we are not trained for, acting as a counselor, parent, minister, best friend, etc., we will be doing a disservice to the children. Therefore, we have to remind ourselves of our place as positive adult role models in a recreational environment and avoid topics of conversation which we are not qualified to give advice on (e.g. sex, religion, substance use etc.). If issues come up which we are not prepared to deal with, please refer them to a WBYO Director, who will help refer families to the appropriate professionals to handle these issues.

5) BE SAFE.

While we want you to have fun with WBYO kids and let loose, this can never come at the expense of their safety, and we always err on the side of caution. For example, when walking with kids we cross the street only at crosswalks, we only ride bikes if everyone has helmets, and all kids in vehicles must be wearing seatbelts. Parents have entrusted us with the safety of their kids, and it's not worth taking risks. Please help us continue on our decades-long track record of no serious injuries at WBYO.

