

Policy Procedure: Programs Involving Minors on Campus

Procedure Number: 117P

Contact Information: Provosts@nvcc.edu

Forms: [Assumption of Risk](#), [Photo Release](#), [Programs Involving Minors – Approval and Registration](#)

Last Reviewed Date: 10/22/2021

1. Approval
 - a. All Programs Involving Minors must be reviewed and approved by the provost or vice president having supervisory authority over the Program, normally at least sixty (60) days prior to the first scheduled date of participation by minors. The Program must also be approved by the provost of the campus where it will take place, if different.
 - b. Factors to be considered before approving a Program include:
 - i. Alignment of the Program with the College's mission;
 - ii. Appropriate subject matter and fully planned activity itinerary;
 - iii. Appropriate staffing and supervision ratios, with special regard to avoiding one-on-one contact between Minors and Program/Activity Staff.
2. Registration
 - a. All Programs shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the first scheduled date of participation by minors, register such Program with the Office of Administrative Services/ Risk Management. Registration shall be on Form 125-392 [Programs Involving Minors – Approval and Registration](#) and shall require, at a minimum:
 - i. the name of the person in charge of the Program,
 - ii. the dates and locations where minors will be participating, the expected number of minors and expected number of chaperones/staff,
 - iii. the provost or vice president having supervisory authority over the Program,
 - iv. the general nature of the activities to be undertaken, and
 - v. the administrative requirements associated with the Program, including whether waivers, permission slips, and medical emergency forms have been or will be obtained from the parents/guardians of participating minors.
3. Additional Requirements for Programs Involving Minors Working in Laboratories
 - a. While all programs involving minors are expected to complete the requirements outlined above, there are additional requirements that must be satisfied when minors will be working in any labs at NOVA involving exposure to or use of specialized equipment and material (including, but not limited to, science labs, automotive labs, HVAC labs, and health science labs).
4. Forms
 - a. Minors and their parents or guardians must submit required College forms before minors are allowed to participate in a College sponsored program, including:
 - i. assumption of risk signed by parent or legal guardian
 - ii. program rules and behavioral expectation
 - iii. medical information and emergency contact

- iv. photo release
 - b. For programs that are co-sponsored by an external organization, that organization's forms may be substituted for the College forms. However, the College assumption of risk form is always required, even if the external organization's form covers assumption of risk.
- 5. Supervision and Interaction with Minors
 - a. Program staff are responsible for:
 - i. supervising minors at all times while they are participating in the program
 - ii. following College guidelines for Interaction with Minors
 - iii. enforcing all program rules and behavioral expectations
 - iv. responding to emergencies
 - v. completing incident reports, if required
 - vi. reporting child abuse or neglect as outlined in Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect Policy
- 6. Background Checks
 - a. Individuals who are responsible for the supervision or care of minors in College-sponsored or cosponsored Programs, or whose duties would require close contact with minors must successfully complete a criminal background check prior to working with minors, and every three years thereafter. The cost of the background investigation is the responsibility of the College sponsor. Background investigations are coordinated through the Office of Human Resources.
 - b. Individuals with unsatisfactory background check results may be excluded from participation in the Program at the College's discretion.
- 7. Violations and Reporting
 - a. College employees assigned to supervise minors in a program or activity and who fail to supervise minors as required in College sponsored programs may be subject to disciplinary action in accord with DHRM and VCCS policies. College departments that fail to comply with this policy in its entirety may be prohibited from sponsoring programs involving minors in the future.
 - b. All College employees, who in their official or professional capacity, have reason to suspect that a minor is an abused or neglected child, are required to report the matter as soon as possible, but not longer than 24 hours after having reason to suspect a reportable offense of child abuse or neglect. See Policy 406 Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect.
 - c. Accidents involving visitors, including minors, should be reported immediately. The College employee at the scene should complete the Incident Report Form, (NVCC Form 125-088), at the time of the occurrence or as soon after the occurrence as possible. College police are to complete the form if no College employee is present.

Definitions

College sponsored program: a program that is directly related to the assigned responsibilities of the College department or division sponsoring the program, and for which a department or division of the College determines the content of the program, plans and organizes the logistics.

Co-sponsored program: a program jointly sponsored by a College department or division and an external organization.

Minor: an individual under the age of 18.

Program: an event or activity that provides educational/instructional, recreational, cultural or athletic activities primarily developed to serve minors, such as camps, STEM Day, etc.