

PENN'S WOODS WEST CHAPTER  
TROUT UNLIMITED  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

POLICY #: 20-06

INDEX TITLE: Youth

SUBJECT: Protection of Youth

DATE:

- I. POLICY/PURPOSE/SCOPE: The safety and well-being of Youth who participate in PWWTU activities is vitally important. "Children" is a sub category of "Youth", defined as a person who has not passed his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Many current adult PWWTU members learned to fish with an uncle or family friend and outings traditionally include "kids". This is no problem for private or family outings, but PWWTU-sponsored activities require a much higher level of youth protection. Unfortunately, the exploitation of youth by adult sexual predators has landed a number of institutions in the soup. We'd like to avoid a similar situation.

II. POLICY

- A. Any adult involved with PWWTU-sponsored youth events/activities, even in a peripheral manner, shall submit clearance checks prior to the event to the PWWTU Secretary who will retain these documents for at least 2 years. (PA requirements are attached).
- B. Any adult involved with PWWTU-sponsored youth events will review TU's Sexual Abuse Policy (attached) and return a signed copy to the PWW Secretary prior to the event. (No exceptions!)
- C. Structural barriers to abuse are important.
  - i. Events should be structured so that all adults and youth are in a single, easily monitored area.
  - ii. No secluded one-on-one (adult, youth) contact is permitted unless youth is with a parent or guardian.
  - iii. Two adults need to be with youth at all times; for example when waiting for a parent to pick up a youth after an event.
  - iv. A TU adult should *never* transport Youth in a car.
  - v. Parents, grandparents or legal guardians are the only people allowed to transport Youth to and from a PWWTU event. Exception: non-family, non-PWWTU adults may transport youth but must submit a "permission slip" signed by the parents or legal guardian to the PWW leader of the event.
  - vi. A signed permission slip is also required for PWWTU-organized bus or van transportation involving youth and adults when the parent or guardian is not present.
  - vii. Handle medical emergencies by calling 911.
- D. It is recommended that each youth be accompanied by a parent or guardian while participating in PWWTU-sponsored activities.
  - i. The parent or guardian should always be within earshot of the youth.
  - ii. The parent or guardian should provide transportation to and from the event.
- E. Most youth are minors and thus not able to sign legal documents such as waivers. A parent or guardian may sign such documents and the youth may assent.
- F. Similarly, a parent or guardian can consent to the use of the youth's image in media

- G. A youth's contact information shall not be sold or used for commercial purposes.
- H. Events involving overnight stays involve higher risk and require PWWTU Board approval.

SIGNED:

TITLE:

ORIGINAL:

APPROVALS:

Policy development subcommittee:

PWW Board:

PWW Membership:

REVISION OF PRIOR DOCUMENT?    Dated:

Appendices:

1. Pennsylvania clearance requirements (2020)
2. TU Sexual Abuse Policy
3. Model Parental Consent form

#### 1. PA Clearance requirements (as of March, 2020)

The two basic clearances required in Pennsylvania to work with Youth are 1. A PA State Police (PSP) Criminal Background Check (Act 34) and 2. Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151). When done for volunteer purposes both the PSP Background Check and the Child Abuse History Clearance can be obtained at no cost to the applicant.

The criminal check is relatively quick and easy: [Click here](#) to get started. Be sure to print the certificate with the seal.

The first step in obtaining Act 151 clearance is to create an account. This step requires you to list your home addresses for the past 25 years. Get the certificate with the Dept. of Health seal behind the text. [Click here](#) to get started:

Mandated Reporter Training (highly recommended). Complete online at [www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu](http://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu).

People who have not lived in Pennsylvania for 10 consecutive years will also require an FBI fingerprint check. There is a cost to the applicant for this check. <https://www.identogo.com/services/live-scan-fingerprinting>.

2. TU Sexual abuse policy: [Click here](#) to access the document,

3. Parental Consent Form:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name), am the parent/legal guardian of the following Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name).

I hereby consent to his/her participation in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

In determining whether to allow \_\_\_\_\_ to participate, I recognize that Trout Unlimited cannot be responsible for him/her in the event of injury while participating. I also realize that participation can involve the risk of serious physical injury or death and agree, on his/her behalf, to assume those risks.

I agree to release and indemnify Trout Unlimited, its officers, trustees, directors, employees, and agents, from and against any and all claims, demands, and judgments arising from injuries or damages in connection with his/her participation.

Further, I give permission to use my child's photographic image in the TU newsletters and website.

Signature of parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_