

**Our Northshield policy always has been that parents are in charge of their young people. Due to recent current events, the policy is now described in detail, but still remains the same basic parents are in charge of their young people. Here are the highlights.**

**1) One less form, one additional form:**

**Non-member youth must have a new waiver at every event. Member youth with a valid blue card do not have to sign entry waivers, except where it is event required like Pennsic. Youth combatants still have the same forms (to my best knowledge). Parents must sign a waiver roster to be in official youth activities (non-fighting).**

**2) Two adult rule for official young people activities:**

**“Official” young people classes or activities need to have two adults present. One adult can be a passive observer, just ready to run a errand if needed or provide other help if needed. If a capable young person is running the activity, then both adults can be passive observers.**

**3) Our official policy still is parents are in charge of young people, official youth activities are not a daycare. If the young person needs any type of supervision other than youth combat marshaling, the parent must provide it. Official youth activities listed on the web page, site booklet or Northwatch are provided for entertainment and for instruction of young people. Official activities should not have any words like “watch”, “care for”, “supervision”, or “monitor”. Appropriate words are like “entertain” or “instruct”. Separate from an SCA office or SCA official youth activity, parents may set up parental care cooperatives or any babysitting relationships that may benefit them.**

**4) Anytime, anywhere on site, the parent or a parent designate should be appropriately supervising young people otherwise it is an issue for the Autocrat(s) and the Seneschal(s). For this purpose, Youth Ministers are Deputy Seneschals. Leaving the site without communication and without leaving a parent designate is particularly bad. Volunteering for service, while deeply appreciated, does not remove the parent from this responsibility.**

**Detailed Explanation of the rule involving official youth activities:**

**Official young people activities are advertised in the Northwatch, or website or site booklet as activities specifically for young people. This excludes youth marshaling which has separate rules. An official youth activity does not provide supervision and care for young people. It does not provide a “break” for parents. Parents still have to provide care in the same way as if their young people were going to a playground or any other activity.**

**For example, a person running a youth activity may provide lemonade, water, carrots, dried fruit, crackers or other food. If a young person has food allergies, then that young person should know not to eat anything that he or she is allergic to. Otherwise, the young person needs a person provided by the parent to provide the supervision and monitoring to ensure that the young person does not eat the wrong food. The person running the youth activity is not expected to do this.**

**Here are other examples of where the parent must provide supervision:**

- a) If the young person is too young or immature to be trusted to travel the site alone. Five years old and younger children are in this category by law**
- b) If the young person does not act with courtesy and responsibility when away from supervision**
- c) If the young person has chronic health problems which require immediate assistance from another person.**

**Our expectation is that frequently parent/young person sets or babysitter/young person sets will come to youth activities. Normally, parents are expected to actively run and help youth activities. Parents may visit or stay at youth activities at any time. Parents are expected to check out the planned activities and ensure that the young person is appropriately prepared. This could mean applied sunscreen, clothes that can have paint splattered on them or extra water.**

**Supervision of young people is expected to be frequent and constant, appropriate to the age and maturity of the young person. So for example, a five year old is playing within sight of parent or babysitter, while a 17 year old may just check in, twice a day.**

**To make supervision easier, many Northshield events structure young people activities so that it happens within easy sight distance of most adult activities. WW puts the youth activity area in the middle of where parents tend to camp. Events that are in a big hall frequently have youth activities on the stage or in a corner.**

**People running youth activities have rights as well.**

- a) The person running the activity may dismiss a parent with his or her young person at any time from the activity. Dismissed parents must immediately leave the area with**

**dependant young children without any complaint. Appeal must go directly to the Kingdom Seneschal or Kingdom Youth Minister.**

**b) Young people may always leave official youth activities at any time. A youth activity instructor or coordinator may also dismiss a youth from the activity at any time. The young person should be mature enough to go check in with the parent, otherwise the parent should be at the activity, actively supervising that young person.**

**c) Additional rules appropriate to the instructor, activity or event can always be added. An example would be “Only the instructor touches the saw”. Another example would be “Class restricted to young people who are 12 years old or older”.**

**In fact, parents should treat people who run youth activities as a great golden treasure because they help make the event fun for young people. Support and thank these people. There has been a high burn out rate of people running youth activities, due to a few parents who still treat youth activities as daycare. Other parents can help ensure that this does not happen,**

**Northshield parents and young people have been very responsible, contributing in service, in art and in fighting. In order to protect the respect and the rights of these parents and young people, those parents, guardians and young people not following expectations will be contacted. While the SCA tries to treat everyone with warmth and compassion, warnings should be taken very seriously. The consequences of inappropriate supervision may be expulsion from the event and appropriate referral to mundane law enforcement.**

**The official youth policy is available on the Northshield website under Seneschal.**

**Please repost to lists that would like to see this note.  
Thanks for reading a long note,**

**Lady Charissa**

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