UW-Madison’s Youth Protection Policy Contains a Multifaceted Youth Protection Framework

This guide will help you navigate each section of the policy’s youth protection framework,* which is designed to protect:

• youth who participate in youth activities,
• university employees and volunteers, and
• UW-Madison as an institution.

Information in this guide reflects the latest version of UW-1045 Youth Protection Policy. Email youthprotection@wisc.edu with questions.

*While the framework is standard throughout the university, administrative processes may vary in the university’s largest youth-serving programs, including Athletics and Wisconsin 4-H.
SECTION I: Recordkeeping

All **YOUTH ACTIVITIES** Must Be Registered with the Office of Youth Protection Annually

**YOUTH ACTIVITY:** An event, operation, endeavor, or activity intended for participation by minors that is operated by UW-Madison on or off campus. *(UW-1045, Definitions)*

Examples: programs, events, camps, clinics, workshops, symposia, conferences, tournaments, meets, clubs, projects, competitions, Olympiad, internships, job shadowing, mentoring, lessons, coaching, tutoring, field trips, lab visits, and service-learning placements.

To register, visit [https://youthprotection.wisc.edu/registration/](https://youthprotection.wisc.edu/registration/).

See pages 4-8 for more information on registering Youth Activities.
SECTION I: Recordkeeping

TIP FROM OYP:
All activities involving minors must register with the Office of Youth Protection UNLESS the activity is listed in the Blue Box.

Taxonomy of Youth Activities
Youth activities are geared toward minors, who are not yet University of Wisconsin students.

Youth Activity Operated by University of Wisconsin-Madison on or off campus.

UW-Madison Youth Protection Policy establishes minimum standards for the protection of youth participants in youth activities offered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, on and off campus, and in third-party youth activities. The policy is also designed to protect employees, volunteers, and UW-Madison as an institution.

Youth Activities outside of a full-fledged youth program.
Typically, this means registering UW while interacting with Youth. UW likely plays a role in establishing the adult/youth correction.

SECTION I: Recordkeeping

Full-fledged Youth Program
Individual participation is tracked through enrollment registration and/or attendance tracking. Parent permissions/ waivers, accident insurance, staffing plans, supervision, and additional considerations may apply. Typically, this means supervising Youth and providing Custodial Care.

Activities where participants arrive and scatter

Individual Placements
Examples:
- High school student visiting a lab
- High school student with unpaid internship at UW
- Job shadowing / workplace visit
- Art music lessons or instruction

Residential – includes overnight stay
On campus Examples:
- Summer Music Clinic
- Badger Sports Camps
- Pushkin Summer Institute

Off campus Examples:
- Program using local hotel space, not UW Housing
- Extension summer camps

Guest Speaker (one time)
Examples:
- Person presents to youth and connects with them afterwards
- A non-job-related youth activity, such as mentoring

Connections (ongoing)
Examples:
- Person presents to youth and connects with them afterwards
- A non-job-related youth activity, such as mentoring

Field Trips & Campus Visits
Examples:
- Chaperoned K-12 youth field trip
- Campus tours designed for youth

Outreach Programs/Events

Service-Learning Activities

Youth Conferences
Examples:
- MSAN (Minority Student Achievement Network)
- NASA GLOBE Student Research Symposium
- Expanding Your Horizons (STEM)

Competition
Examples:
- WI High School State Speech Festival / Forensics Meet
- Science Olympiad
- FFA Livestock Competition

Exclusions: Not a Youth Activity
Although minors may be present, these activities are not required to register annually with OYP.

1. Paid hourly employment of an individual under age 18 (when hired in roles that are not associated with a youth activity or third-party youth activity).
2. Enrollment in for-credit university course by an individual under the age of 18.
3. Orientation and academic advising activities for matriculated students under the age of 18 (e.g., SOAR).
4. Events or activities open to and serving the general public (e.g., Badger volleyball games).
5. State licensed preschool, childcare, day camp and daycare programs.
6. Medical care given to minors in a university patient care setting by a licensed healthcare provider.
7. Research conducted under protocols approved by UW-Madison Institutional Review Board. Note: supplemental procedures may constitute a youth activity (e.g., transportation or supervision of youth research participants if unaccompanied by a parent/guardian).
8. Activities under UW-5009 Children in the Workplace (e.g., an employee bringing their child or children to visit the campus).
9. Minors participating in pre-enrollment visitation or recruiting activities governed under the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).
10. Private events.
SECTION I: Recordkeeping

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to register my activity? Check the Taxonomy of Youth Activities on page 4. Unless specifically excluded in the blue box, you should register it with the Office of Youth Protection. Still not sure? Email questions to youthprotection@wisc.edu.

How do I register? Visit the Office of Youth Protection website at https://youthprotection.wisc.edu/registration/ to be directed to the registration page. Registration is conducted through a Qualtrics form.

When should I register? At least 30 days before the start of the youth activity. It is recommended that youth activities with overnight components or high-risk features register 60-90 days in advance.

How do I prepare to register?

• Designate an Authorized Custodian for the youth activity: This person must be a UW-Madison employee.
• Get permission from the Authorizing school/college/division: Authorization must be in writing from the Youth Protection Designee (see page 6 for more information). You will need to provide documentation to OYP in a shared Google Drive.
• Identify the timeframe for the youth activity: Activities with multiple sessions or an ongoing program can be registered in a single entry. Multiple activities offered by the same program are typically registered separately.

What else do I need to provide the Office of Youth Protection?

For most activities, you need to provide additional information, including the staff roster, to the Office of Youth Protection. Participant rosters are required for all youth activities offered by UW-Madison that take custodial care of youth. See page 8 for more information.

Do I need to register each year? Yes.

TIP FROM OYP: If you offer youth activities each year, consider putting an annual registration reminder on your calendar.
Permission from a **Youth Protection Designee** is needed for all Youth Activities

**Youth Protection Designee:**
The Youth Protection Designee is a UW-Madison employee designated by the dean or chief executive of the authorizing unit who is responsible for authorizing youth activities and third-party youth activities operating through, or otherwise associated with, that school/college/division. *(UW-1045, Definitions)*.

**Authorizing Unit:**
The university’s school/college/division responsible for authorizing the operation of individual youth activities and third-party youth activities. *(UW-1045, Definitions)*.

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**What does the youth activity need from the Youth Protection Designee?**
Written documentation of approval. It can be an email, letter, or a form developed by your school/college/division. Upload this document into your Simple Safe Zone (SSZ) secured shared Google Drive.

**Who is the Youth Protection Designee for my school/college/division?**
The Dean/Director of each school/college/division has been asked to identify the name of the staff member who has authority to approve activities involving youth in the school/college/division. A list of Youth Protection Designees is available in the Youth Activities Shared Google Drive.

**Do third-party youth activities require permission from a Youth Protection Designee?**
Yes. All Youth Activities need permission to operate on or through UW-Madison campus and on all university property. Third-parties must obtain authorization from a school/college/division and their Youth Protection Designee.
SECTION I: Recordkeeping

What Happens After the Registration is Complete?

If you have questions about the registration or any youth protection requirements at UW-Madison, please email youthprotection@wisc.edu.

Message you will receive when you submit the registration form:

Thank you for registering a Youth Activity with the Office of Youth Protection at the University of Wisconsin-Madison! UW-Madison’s Youth Protection Policy (UW-1045) outlines requirements for running youth activities, including important information about screening and training staff. You can read the updated policy at https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1045.

You will be contacted by staff from the Office of Youth Protection if your activity is required to post rosters to Simple Safe Zone. More information about Simple Safe Zone can be found on the Office of Youth Protection website at https://youthprotection.wisc.edu/registration.

If you have questions about this registration or any youth protection requirements at UW-Madison, please email youthprotection@wisc.edu.
Roster Upload Requirements

**ALL Youth Activities**

**14 Days Prior to Start**

Upload the following details regarding all adults authorized to interact with youth participants:

- Name
- Contact information (e.g., email, NetID)
- Role classification (e.g., authorized custodian, authorized assistant custodian, authorized adult, guest speaker)
- Dates of successful completion of all applicable screening requirements
- Dates of completion of all applicable training requirements

**ONLY Youth Activities Providing Custodial Care**

**14 Days Following Conclusion**

Upload the following details for all youth participants who attended the youth activity:

- Name
- Contact information for parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Name and contact information for emergency contacts
In this section, you will learn about the four roles in Youth Activities and the screening and training requirements for each role.
## Four Youth Activity Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLE TYPE</th>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorized Custodian</strong></td>
<td>• A director running the PEOPLE program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The head of sailing programs with UW Outdoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A professor who is organizing and managing a one-day science bowl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• An employee responsible for coordinating school group tours of the Kohl Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorized Assistant Custodian</strong></td>
<td>• Volunteers supervising youth in an afterschool STEM program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Staff responsible for supervising youth in an overnight camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorized Adult</strong></td>
<td>• Tour guide in museum giving tours to youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Outreach educator who brings programs to local schools or community groups, but is not responsible for the supervision of the youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Professor who teaches physics weekly in a summer precollege program on campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guest Speaker</strong></td>
<td>• Firefighter speaking to 4-H club about safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Professor giving a two-hour presentation on physics to a STEM program on campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A student athlete giving a one-time presentation as part of a basketball camp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Role Type Examples**: Responsibility for youth participants increases with each level as you move up this list.
Key Question to Determine the Need for Each Role Type in Your Activity

Who takes Custodial Care of Youth?

Custodial Care: The temporary responsibility for supervision, care, and/or control of minors. (UW-1045, Definitions)

Tip from OYP: There are differences in requirements for Youth Activities taking custodial care of youth and Youth Activities that do not take custodial care. Keep an eye out for those differences on upcoming pages.
### SECTIONS II and III: Screening and Training Personnel

**Roles for Activities WITH and WITHOUT Custodial Care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities WITH Custodial Care of Youth</th>
<th>Activities WITHOUT Custodial Care of Youth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REQUIRED TO HAVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized Custodian(s)</td>
<td>Authorized Custodian(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized Assistant Custodian(s)</td>
<td>Authorized Adult(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY HAVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Speaker(s)</td>
<td>Guest Speaker(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized Adult(s) who are not serving as Authorized Assistant Custodians or Authorized Custodians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorized Assistant Custodian(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TIP FROM OYP:** Ensure the number of individuals providing supervision in Youth Activities meets supervision ratio requirements on page 18. In situations where only one adult is required by the ratios, always remember to have a backup.
Ensuring Your Staff are Appropriately Screened

The Authorized Custodian for the activity must:

• Disclose the youth activity role each adult (employees and volunteers) holds to Human Resources for their school/college/division

• Confirm screening requirements are completed for each adult prior to the start of the activity

Human Resources must ensure employees and volunteers with youth activity roles: (except Guest Speakers)

• Are documented appropriately (e.g., hire letter, volunteer appointment letter, position description)

• Have appropriate Position of Trust or POTAVP designations entered in HRS

• Receive background checks at a frequency reflective of the level of responsibility for youth in the assigned role

TIPS FROM OYP: Staff planning new youth activities should communicate early and often with their school/college/division’s Human Resources professionals.

• Be clear about the roles each staff member and volunteer will play.

• Plan to allow several weeks for the criminal background check process to be completed, even if you are not hiring new employees for this program year.

• Check with Financial Services for your school/college/division to find out how charges for criminal background checks will be applied to your youth activity.

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### SECTION II: Screening Personnel

#### Position of Trust Designations and Frequency of Criminal Background Checks Required for Each Position Type

All new employees are required to undergo reference checks focused on sexual harassment. Contact your school/college/division Human Resources office with questions.

Reference checks in alignment with [UW System Administrative Policy 1275](#) have been added for volunteers serving as authorized assistant custodians. Implementation of this requirement is temporarily on hold.

**TIPS FROM OYP:** Consult with the Human Resources team in your school/college/division about timing for communicating this type of information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROLE TYPE</th>
<th>SCREENING REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Authorized Custodian    | • Position of Trust with Access to Vulnerable Populations: Two-Year Criminal Background Check Cycle  
                          | • Reference Check: Required for employees (volunteers ineligible for this role)          |
| Authorized Assistant Custodian | • Position of Trust with Access to Vulnerable Populations: Two-Year Criminal Background Check Cycle  
                                       | • Reference Check: Required for employees and volunteers (temporarily on-hold for volunteers) |
| Authorized Adult        | • Position of Trust with Access to Vulnerable Populations: Four-Year Criminal Background Check Cycle  
                          | • Reference Check: Required for employees.                                              |
| Guest Speaker           | Not required                                                                           |
### Required Training Prior to Serving in Youth Activity Roles

Additional training, including Preventing Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence at UW-Madison, is required of all UW-Madison employees, regardless of the duration of the employment. Individuals involved in higher risk activities (e.g., swimming, using chemicals) or who handle food may be required to complete training or certifications related to that activity.

It is the responsibility of the youth activity Authorized Custodian and/or the school/college/division’s Human Resources office to track youth protection training requirements and ensure that specific requirements related to the activity are met.

### Role Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role Type</th>
<th>Current Training Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorized Custodian</strong></td>
<td>• Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect (Every 2 years)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Responsible Employee (Annually)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Clergy Campus Security Authority (Annually)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Training on effective youth protection practices (Every 2 years)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If working in a residential youth activity under ATCP-78:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sexual Abuse Prevention Training (Annually)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorized Assistant Custodian</strong></td>
<td>• Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect (Every 2 years)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sexual Misconduct and Clergy Crimes in Youth Activities: Reporting and Prevention (Annually)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Training on effective youth protection practices (Every 2 years)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If working in a residential youth activity under ATCP-78:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sexual Abuse Prevention Training (Annually)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authorized Adult</strong></td>
<td>• Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect (Every 2 years)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Training on university processes for reporting sexual misconduct (Every 2 years)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guest Speaker</strong></td>
<td>• None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These trainings are also available for volunteers who do not have NetIDs.
** Under development
Behavior Standards and Expectations of Personnel when Interacting with Youth
Ensure Staff and Participants are Aware of the Range of Conduct that is Prohibited, including GROOMING

GROOMING: Describes the process whereby a person engages in a series or pattern of behaviors with the goal of engaging in sexual misconduct. Grooming is initiated when a person seeks out a vulnerable youth. Once selected, offenders will then earn the youth’s trust, and potentially the trust of the youth’s family. After the offender has engaged the youth in sexually inappropriate behavior, the offender seeks to maintain control over them. Grooming occurs through direct, in-person, or online contact (UW-1045, Definitions).

TIP FROM OYP: Consider viewing this video to better understand the impact of grooming: Darkness to Light: Keeping Kids Safe from Grooming and Manipulation
Meet Required Supervision Ratios

Supervision ratios in Youth Activities must meet the minimum standards set through ATCP 78.26. This standard must be met by the group responsible for custodial care. Requirements for 2024 are listed on this page.

Supervision Ratio Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of YOUTH PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>Supervision Ratio (STAFF: YOUTH PARTICIPANT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In all situations</td>
<td>1 STAFF member to every 4 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS (or fraction thereof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 6 and under</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In all situations</td>
<td>1 STAFF member to every 10 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS (or fraction thereof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 7 through 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In a classroom setting and transitioning between buildings</td>
<td>1 STAFF member to every 18 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS (or fraction thereof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 10 and above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In all situations outside of those listed directly above</td>
<td>1 STAFF member to every 10 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS (or fraction thereof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 10 and above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- If a single supervising STAFF member is required during time in a classroom, another STAFF member must be reachable via cell phone and respond in-person within five minutes if assistance is needed.
- A minimum of two STAFF members are required to accompany YOUTH PARTICIPANTS on all field trips; ratios referenced above must also be maintained.

TIP FROM OYP: Think about how to maintain ratios if staff are unable to work due to illness. Hiring extra staff or training and screening additional volunteers can help Youth Activities with maintaining ratios.
SECTION IV: Supervising Youth Participants
See Section IV.B.

**One-on-One Interactions**

Since abuse typically occurs in isolated one-on-one situations, remember to implement the rule of three. This means that there should always be at least three people present for any activity, unless it meets the criteria for exceptions in Section IV.B. 1-3

**TIP FROM OYP:** Whenever interacting with youth, think about how your interactions can be **OBSERVABLE AND INTERRUPTIBLE.** That means, the interaction should take place in such a way that another person can see, hear, or has knowledge of the interaction and can interrupt if needed ([UW-1045, Definitions]).
SECTION V:
Preparing for Emergencies

All Youth Activities Must Have a Safety Plan

The youth activity safety plan must address emergencies including fire, power outage, severe weather, lost or missing youth participant, and medical emergencies. Additionally, all activities must have clear protocols to address infectious disease (e.g., measles, flu, Covid) outbreaks among staff or youth.

Each activity is responsible for ensuring that their safety plan meets all requirements that apply to the activity. For example, certain high-risk activities (e.g., swimming, woodworking) may need to address additional items in their safety plans.

TIP FROM OYP: Consider using the Emergency Response Template developed by OYP as a guide for creating protocols. It’s recommended that you upload your Emergency Response plan to the program Simple Safe Zone (SSZ).
SECTION VI: Reporting Incidents

Staff Must Report Incidents to Appropriate Authorities in a Timely Manner

UW-Madison’s required training for each role informs employees and volunteers serving in youth activities about their reporting obligations. Remember, call 911 or the UWPD (if the activity takes place on campus) before completing any reports if the situation is a medical or life-threatening emergency.

**TIP FROM OYP:** Visit the OYP website at youthprotection.wisc.edu/reporting to learn more about your reporting requirements. In addition, use the chart on the next page as a reporting resource. Consider including a copy of the chart in training materials for the activity. A more detailed version of the chart can be downloaded from the UW-Madison website.
SECTION VI: Reporting Incidents

Staff Must Report Incidents to Appropriate Authorities in a Timely Manner

For questions on reporting Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence, contact Lindsey Peterson with the Sexual Misconduct and Response Program in the Office of Compliance at lindsey.peterson@wisc.edu.
## Records Retention Schedules for Youth Activities

Youth activity records must be maintained according to the UW System Youth Records Schedules and any other relevant retention schedules.

All records retention schedules for UW-Madison can be found at: [https://www.library.wisc.edu/archives/records-management/uw-madison-records-retention-schedules-and-disposition/](https://www.library.wisc.edu/archives/records-management/uw-madison-records-retention-schedules-and-disposition/).

In addition to the schedules in the table on this page, youth activities may be responsible for adhering to other relevant schedules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Type</th>
<th>Retention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Activity Participant Records: Enrolled and Attended</td>
<td>Date Activity Ends + 7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Activity Participant Records: Did Not Attend</td>
<td>Date Application Denied or Date of Activity + 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Activity Participant Medical Records</td>
<td>Date Activity Ends +3 years OR Date of 18th Birthday + 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Activity Participant Medical Logs</td>
<td>Date Activity Ends + 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Activity Incident Reports</td>
<td>Date Incident Resolved + 7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Activities - Third Party Contracts</td>
<td>Date Contract Expires + 7 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION VIII: Third Parties

Contracts for Third-Party Youth Activities Must Include a Youth Protection Addendum

THIRD PARTY: A non-university organization or entity.

THIRD-PARTY YOUTH ACTIVITY: An event, operation, endeavor, or activity intended for participation of minors that is organized and operated by a third party and takes place on property owned, rented, or managed by UW-Madison.

Does my school/college/division need to develop its own youth protection addendum?
No. Contact the Office of Youth Protection for youth protection addendum templates. Separate templates are used for commuter and residential programming.

Can a standard space use agreement be used for a third-party youth activity?
Yes. The youth protection addendum can be added to a standard space use agreement.

I have questions about third-party youth activity registration, the contract process, vetting, risks, etc. What do I do?
Contact the Office of Youth Protection at youthprotection@wisc.edu to schedule a consultation as early as possible.
Other Relevant Policies

In addition to UW-1045 Youth Protection, activities involving youth may fall under the following policies:

- UW-146 Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence
- UW-301 Policy on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect (Executive Order 54)
- UW-503 Cybersecurity Risk Management Policy
- UW-509 DoIT Incident Reporting and Response Policy
- UW-5014 Criminal Background Check Policy
- UW-5039 Children in the Workplace
- UW-5040 Minor Protection and Adult Leadership HR Policy
- UW-6009 Inclusive Facilities Policy and Procedures for All Buildings
- UW-6106 Minors in Research Laboratories Policy
Questions?
Contact the Office of Youth Protection with questions about activities involving youth on the UW-Madison campus and across the state.

youthprotection@wisc.edu

Location:
21 N. Park Street, 7th Floor
Madison, WI 53715