

Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc Volunteer Age Policy

Volunteers are the key component to carrying out the mission of Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc (BES). Youth volunteers are especially important because they will become the adult volunteers who will sustain our mission into the future.

Regretfully, because of prevailing legalities, no one under the age of 14 may volunteer with BES. To balance reward and risk, BES has adopted the following age policy for volunteers:

Volunteers 18 years of age and older (Adult Volunteers).

Adults may serve in almost any volunteer capacity within BES. Some positions may have additional requirements, training, or approval depending on the expectations and skills needed to perform certain tasks.

Volunteer Ages 14 through 17 (Youth Volunteers).

- A. Each youth must be accompanied by a parent or a guardian with parental permission.
- B. The accompanying adult must remain in close proximity to the youth and assume all responsibility for the safety and welfare of the youth volunteer (e.g. If the youth wishes to use the rest room, the adult must accompany that youth to the rest room).
- C. If an adult is accompanying more than one youth, that adult must stay in close proximity to both youths.
- D. At no time may another unauthorized adult, BES staff, community member, or guest assume responsibility for a youth volunteer.

Youth Groups

Prior approval from the Director of Volunteers is required for youth groups to volunteer.

- A. Each group must be under the supervision of a minimum of two legally responsible adults.
- B. The ratio of youths to legally responsible adults shall not exceed three youths to one adult (3:1).
- C. The legally responsible adults must stay in close proximity to all of the youths under their supervision.
- D. Legally responsible adults assume responsibility for the safety and welfare of the youths under their supervision.
- E. No other unauthorized adult, BES staff, community member, or guest may assume responsibility for a group of youth.

Any questions regarding this policy should be addressed to the Director of Volunteers.