Children on Campus Newsletter (October/November 2020 Issue)

# / Hello WVU Youth Programs

Hello WVU Youth Programs:

The Quarterly Meeting held on September 16, 2020 was productive and if you didn’t receive a copy of the meeting notes, e-mail us at childrenoncampus@mail.wvu.edu and we can provide them to you. The request to host Monthly Meetings has been proposed and we agree that an opportunity to connect, collaborate, consult and have general conversation on a monthly basis is needed, so mark your calendars for the following dates:

**Monthly Meetings:**

* November 18, 2020: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Quarterly Meetings:**

* December 16, 2020: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (\*A registration link will be sent out at the beginning of December.)

# / Spreading Awareness

As you may know, October is National Bullying Prevention Month, a time to focus on and raise awareness on bullying. Beginning in October 2006, several groups came together to host the first awareness week sponsoring events and activities to raise awareness of the issue of bullying throughout the month. Many groups from across the country will be releasing new resources and other efforts aimed at raising awareness to the issue of bullying including the affect it has on those who are bullied, those who bully, and those who witness bullying.

# / Child Safety

West Virginia University hosts a variety of programs for youth through academic programs, sports clubs, overnight trips, day camps and enrichment activities. We understand the value of giving children early exposure to higher education because programs like these provide lifelong impacts on the child and community they serve. With that being said, it’s important to remember parents expect that schools and other learning environments where children gather are safe. West Virginia University has set forth [Standards To Protect Children & Prevent Abuse](https://diversity.wvu.edu/files/d/bf045d27-b66a-4c09-8a69-0410d31a99eb/standards-to-protect-children-prevent-abuse.pdf) for faculty, staff, students, volunteers and all Members of the University Community.

**Rule of 3 (Two Deep Leadership):** At least two unrelated adults who have had the appropriate background check should be with youth at any given time. Care should be taken to avoid or minimize any situation from happening in which individual minors are alone with a single adult. This rule includes all transportation to/from activities, accompanying a child to the bathroom, and giving a minor a ride home.

**One-On-One Meetings:** with a child or young person are best held in a public area, ensure that it is in a place where you can be seen by several individuals. Never place yourself in the situation where you are alone with a child and there is no one else around to witness your interaction with the youth. Meet in open, well-illuminated spaces or rooms with windows observable by other adults from the program—unless the one-on-one interaction is expressly authorized by the program director, dean, or department chairperson or is being undertaken by a health care provider.

• Abuse typically occurs in locations that are more private and out of sight such as locker rooms, bathrooms, shower areas, dormitory rooms, and classroom spaces after hours.

**The Greater the Visibility, The Lower the Risk**

Additional standards we want to be aware of:

* Minors will be treated with respect always.
* Minors will be treated fairly regardless of race, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation or gender expression.
* Appropriate speech and language will be used around minors at all times.
* Faculty, staff, students and volunteers will not discuss their sexual encounters with or around minors or in any way involve minors in their personal problems or issues.
* Faculty, staff, students and volunteers will not date or become romantically involved with minors.
* Faculty, staff, students and volunteers will not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of minors.
* Faculty, staff, students and volunteers will not have sexually oriented materials, including printed or Internet pornography, in the presence of minors.
* Faculty, staff, students and volunteers will not have “secrets” with minors.
* Faculty, staff, students and volunteers will dress in appropriate attire.
* Programs and activities involving minors on or off campus should be held, where feasible, in open and well-illuminated areas that are easy to access and monitor.
* Faculty, staff, students and volunteers will not engage in inappropriate electronic communication with minors.
* Faculty, staff, students and volunteers shall not abuse minors in anyway including the following: physical abuse such as hitting, spanking, shaking, slapping, unnecessary restraints; verbal abuse such as degrade, threaten, cursing; sexual abuse such as inappropriate touch, exposing oneself, sexually oriented conversations; mental abuse such as shaming, humiliation, cruelty; neglect such as withholding food, water or shelter.
* Program participants are prohibited from engaging in the following: hazing; bullying; derogatory name-calling; games of “truth or dare,” ridicule or humiliation.
* All Members of the University and Members of the University Community will report concerns or complaints about other staff, volunteers, adults, and minors in accordance with West Virginia University, Board of Governors Rule 1.7 Child Protection.

# / Register Now

HEPNet Community Chat: November 20, 2020, 12-1 p.m.

Join with Google Meet: [meet.google.com/eip-cgfu-nes](https://meet.google.com/eip-cgfu-nes?authuser=0&hs=122)

Join by phone:

# / Leading the Way and Starting the Conversation

Are you a mandatory reporter? Join us at the Quarterly Meeting on December 16, 2020 to learn more.

# / Featured Documentary

* Netflix Docuseries: The Trials of Gabriel Fernandez:

A boy’s brutal murder and the public trials of his guardians and social workers prompt questions about the system’s protection of vulnerable children.

# / What is?

What is SHIELD Task Force?

See. Hear. Intervene. Empower. Learn. Defend.

Our mission is to end child abuse. At SHIELD Task Force, we believe this can be done by mobilizing a statewide coalition of law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, professionals, and volunteers to educate the public, empower victims, stop predators, and support survivors. Learn more at <https://www.shieldwv.com/about>

# / Disability Accommodations

Individuals who require disability-related accommodations during the vetting process may contact Jill Hess, ADA Coordinator. Jill.Hess@mail.wvu.edu; 304-293-6692

# Contact Us

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