

Youth Protection for All EAA Programs and Activities Except Young Eagles and AirVenture

EAA has three distinct policies that cover Youth Protection, one of those is aimed directly at the ongoing programs done at EAA and in EAA chapters. Examples of these programs would be day camps, ground schools, and youth aircraft building projects. This short document is intended to help you understand how the Youth Protection for all EAA programs and activities *except* Young Eagles and AirVenture works in an abbreviated format. The full policy is available at eaa.org/youthprotection.

Understanding the program – Why do we need to do this now?

The EAA Youth Protection Program has been put into place to keep youth safe in our EAA programs. EAA and EAA chapters participate in a variety of youth programming that help to move the mission of growing participation in aviation. The policy, training, and background screening are all key elements to a successful youth protection program, and mirror the process found in schools, scouts, churches, and other youth oriented programs.

Training and background checks

All individuals who are supervising youth activities as part of two-deep leadership need to participate in the youth protection training and background check.

All individuals who work with youth programs more than four times a year, and/or more than four hours per event, and/or more than four times with a particular youth are required to participate in the youth protection training and background check.

Two-deep leadership

All youth oriented activities in chapters need to have at least two adults present who have had the EAA Youth Protection training and an approved background check. Just to be clear, activities that are for adults that happen to have a youth attend do not need to follow the guidelines in the policy.

Waivers, permission slips, and record keeping

EAA chapters doing youth activities need to acquire permission waivers from parents and keep them for at least three years. It is also important to have a record of what youth were with you and for how long, so a sign in and out sheet is necessary. Youth ages 15 and above may sign themselves in and out, but younger kids need to have an adult pick them up. If your activity uses tools, the chapter needs to have the participants take a tool safety test which you should also keep on file for three years.

Communication and contact with youth

Helping youth and their parents understand the activities and what to expect has a number of benefits. First, youth and parents who know what to expect are less likely to feel anxious and are more likely to be able to have fun. Secondly, many of our activities are done in close quarters, and physical contact is inevitable, helping people understand that fact saves potential misunderstandings. It also makes it more likely that you will be made aware of potential concerns your participants may have so you can help make them more comfortable.

While EAA would love to see you mentor a young person, common sense practice in today's climate is to initiate all communications through parents, not directly with the youth. The policy reflects this

approach in keeping with our focus on child protection. Misunderstandings are common when using electronic communications with young people, so it is best to contact parents with any information you may need to share. The added benefit is that it is a great way to encourage the parent to get involved with aviation too!

Photography:

Taking photos of youth to share with parents and for chapter use is still encouraged. We ask that you not post last names of youth, and be willing to refrain from photos if parents are uncomfortable with such photos.