

Volunteer Guidelines

Participation in IYN requires strict obedience to ALL volunteer guidelines.

1. Confidentiality is a must. No matter who you see, no matter where you see them, you have no right to tell anyone that they were there. Confidentiality also applies to those mentoring online, what your mentee tells you is STRICTLY between you and them, not you them and your best friend Jimmy!
2. Never tell someone what they SHOULD do. Give them advice not orders.
3. Don't make promises you can't keep! Whether you're mentoring online or volunteering face-to-face, never offer anything you KNOW you can't back up.
4. Be on time. DO things when you say you will, even a few minutes late can make all the difference on how cooperative someone is.
5. Use common sense. There's a time for "joking around" and there's a time to be serious, use your common sense to know when it is time for either.
6. Engaging in any kind of verbal exchange of a sexual nature or anything that may be perceived as sexual behavior is NOT tolerated! If any of the behavior is found to have taken place the proper authorities may be alerted if necessary.
7. If you don't know... ask! Don't give information you're not absolutely sure about. If you need help, just ask someone.
8. If a situation makes you feel uncomfortable, avoid it. You as a volunteer have the right to a comfortable environment.
9. If you are concerned with the welfare of your mentee or a at-risk youth you've come into contact with, you should consider the situation carefully and if necessary alert the proper authorities.
10. NEVER make negative comments anyone volunteering with Invisible Youth Network. In reality making negative comments about your "co-workers" doesn't make them look bad, it makes you look bad!
11. Invisible Youth Network has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for abuse or bullying of any kind!
12. Being respectful is key. Do NOT treat anyone any different than you would want to be treated. Do not treat your mentee or any at-risk youth you cross paths with as a charity case, or as a helpless child. These youth are people just like you and I and expect to be treated as such.
13. Keep in mind that while volunteering for Invisible Youth Network, you are representing Invisible Youth Network first, and yourself second. Individuals you help will not always remember you, but they will remember who you work for, so ALWAYS be professional and appropriate!
14. Be a role model first and foremost. Exhibit the behavior you would want them to exhibit.
15. Be compassionate. Never make anyone feel that you are being MADE to help them, or that they are simply a "charity" case.