



SAFE SANCTUARIES PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

Safe Sanctuaries practices ensure a higher level of safety for children and youth in our ministries and also protect the adults who work with young people. If your church or group has not yet begun to address these issues, we strongly urge you to bring this need and these resources to the attention of your leadership.

All adult volunteers (19 years and older) must have undergone a thorough **national criminal background check, done by the home group**. No adult will be allowed to participate without a background check. ASP does the same on all employees and Helping Hands volunteers. Background checks are valid for 3 years, and then must be repeated.

ASP Background Check Policy is as follows:

ASP operates under Safe Sanctuaries guidelines for our volunteer programs. All adults **19** years old and above, whether group leader or not, are required to have undergone a national criminal background check before going on an ASP trip.

Adults (19 years and older) and youth will have separate showering times, per Safe Sanctuary guidelines and direction of the staff. In each sleeping area, there must be at least 2 adults of the same gender as the youth. These adults will sleep in a separate corner from the youth if possible.

ASP will consult a national sex offender database to ensure we are not placing volunteers in homes of known sex offenders.

Appalachia Service Project does not condone or tolerate sexual harassment in any form.

Please check the [Trip Coordinator Resources page](#) on our website for instructions on completing background checks.

GENERAL RESOURCES:

Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in Youth Ministries; by Joy Thornburg Melton. Discipleship Resources; www.upperroom.org.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. <http://www.elca.org>: An ELCA Strategy for Responding to Sexual Abuse in the Church

Faith Trust Institute; www.faithtrustinstitute.org

Child Abuse Prevention Primer for Your Organization and No Surprises; Nonprofit Risk Management Center – (202) 785-3891.

Controlling Risks in Volunteer Programs; see #4.

VIRTUS Programs – from the National Catholic Risk Retention Group;
www.virtus.org/virtus/virtus_description.cfm

Safe Environment Programs; United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;
www.usccb.org/ocyp/websafe.shtml

Making Our Churches Safe for All: An Introduction to Abuse Prevention for Local Churches;
www.insuranceboard.org