

## NYSYBC Event Rules for Partner Organizations

The safety of minors attending NYSYBC events is priority ONE at all times. ALL NYSYBC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS MUST ABIDE BY THESE RULES.

### Basic Rules to Ensure the Safety of Minors

1. No minor may participate in any field trip unless NYSOA/NYSYBC has received, prior to the trip, an official NYSOA/NYSYBC permission form signed by his or her parent, including liability waiver and detailing contact information and plans for transportation to and from the event. (see sample form attached).
2. Parents are responsible for transportation of their children to and from the event. If they do not transport their own children, they must specify who will do so, and how that person is related to the child.
3. All drivers must be at least 25 years old. By state law, drivers assume liability.
4. No one age 18 or older is allowed to be in a one-on-one situation with a minor who is not the adult's own without written permission from the child's parent. This protects both the child (from potential transgressions by the adult) and the adult (from suspicion or lawsuits)
5. In preparation for each event, the sponsoring Partner Organization will work with the NYSYBC Event Coordinator to identify the following individuals by name at least 14 days prior to the event:
  - a. Any and all adults and/or youth members who will play the role of birding leader.
  - b. IN ADDITION TO the adult birding leader(s), for every 5 minors attending, at least one designated NYSYBC adult leader or member club adult over the age of 30, whose specific responsibility is to chaperone or co-chaperone the group with the objectives of ensuring the safety and well-being of minors. **All chaperones must comply with these Event Rules.**
6. NYSYBC will perform a basic background check (NYS prison database and Sex Offender Registry) for the individuals documented for rule #5 in advance of each field trip. Anyone who does not pass both of these checks will be disqualified from any further involvement in NYSYBC activities.
7. If car travel is required during a field trip, all cars will depart together and drivers must make every effort to stay with the group until its destination is reached. The chaperone(s) named in rule #5b will make every possible effort to keep close track of cars in which an adult is driving one or more children that are not his or her own.

### Other Rules

1. NYSYBC is a club for young people. The only adults allowed to attend NYSYBC events are:
  - a. Youth Members aged 18 or 19.
  - b. Supporting Adult Members aged 20-24 who were previously Youth Members and have been Supporting Adult Members **continuously** since that time.
  - c. Other Supporting Adult Members, only if approved in advance for each specific event.
  - d. Special guests, only if approved in advance for each specific event.
  - e. Parents of minors attending (parents are **encouraged** to attend).
  - f. Designated Birding Leader(s) and Chaperone(s) (see #5 above).
  - g. Approved adults providing transportation (see #2 and #3 above).
2. All attendees must bring and carry their own equipment, food, and water.

### Liability Questions

1. Parents of minors attending any NYSYBC event must sign permission forms and liability waivers (see Basic Rule #1 above).
2. Drivers are legally liable by state law.
3. NYSOA carries liability insurance that would cover NYSYBC events. However, all adults involved in any event must recognize that in the event of tragedy, lawsuits can be filed against anyone.