



NYSYBC Code of Conduct



The safety of minors attending NYSYBC events is priority ONE at all times. ALL NYSYBC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, AND FIELD TRIP LEADERS AND ATTENDEES MUST ABIDE BY THESE RULES.

Basic Rules to Ensure the Safety of Minors at NYSYBC Events

1. No minor (under age 18) 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. The permission form is available for download on the NYSYBC website.
2. Parents are responsible for transportation of their children under the age of 18 to and from all NYSYBC events. If they do not transport their own children under the age of 18, they must specify on the permission form who will do so, and how that person is related to the child.
3. All drivers of minors 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 that person's own child without written permission from the child's parent.
5. In preparation for each field trip, the sponsoring Partner Organization will work with the NYSOA Field Trip 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 without an accompanying parent or guardian, at least one designated NYSOA/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 objective of ensuring the safety and well-being of minors.
6. In advance of each field trip, NYSOA/NYSYBC will perform a criminal background check for all adults attending. Anyone who does not pass the background check will be disqualified from any further involvement in NYSYBC events or 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.

Other Rules

1. NYSYBC is a club for young people. To this end, the only adults allowed to attend NYSYBC events are:
 - a. Designated Birding Leader(s) and Chaperone(s) (see #5 above).
 - b. Parents/guardians of minors attending (parents are **encouraged** to attend; children under 12 **must** be accompanied by parent or guardian throughout the field trip).
 - c. Approved adults providing transportation (see 2 and 3 above).
 - d. Youth Members aged 18 or 19.
 - e. Supporting Adult Members aged 20-24 who were previously Youth Members and have been Supporting Adult Members **continuously** since that time.
 - f. Special guests on an exception basis, only if invited and approved in advance by NYSOA/NYSYBC.
2. All attendees must bring and carry their own equipment, food, and water.

These rules are subject to change. Updates will be sent to all members and posted on the NYSYBC website, www.nysyoungbirders.org