

Youth Protection Training Guide for Leaders and Chaperones

MODULE VI: *Prevention and Risk Management*

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to support the presentation of training materials for Module VI: Prevention and Risk Management, which is the second of three segments specifically for Rainbow leaders and chaperones.

Completion of Rainbow Youth Protection Training Modules I, II, III and IV are prerequisites for this training.

There is no required order for Modules V, VI and VII for Leaders and Chaperones.

Content:

- Prevention
- Safety Factors
- Physical and Programmatic Safety
- Assessing and Managing Risk
- Personal Conduct

Module VI Training Objective: Explore options for strength-based approaches to keep youth safe.

AUDIENCE

This training is appropriate for adult leaders and chaperones of Rainbow assemblies and jurisdictions. It will be most effective if presented at the jurisdictional level, either during a leadership conference or as a special training. The Supreme Inspector or Deputy should be present to handle questions that may arise.

PREPARATION and PRESENTATION

Preparation is essential to the success of this training. Trainers should be familiar with the Module VI PowerPoint and Talking Points in advance of the presentation. Rainbow Leaders who serve as trainers should be familiar with the entire IORG YP Policy prior to the training and should have a copy available for reference.

Considering that a frequently cited statistic is that one in four youth experience maltreatment by the age of majority, it is reasonable to assume that any adult audience will include survivors of abuse. Discussions of sensitive material related to abuse may trigger feelings for those individuals who have had exposure to such situations, either by their own experience or that of someone close to them. Trainers may want to acknowledge this at the beginning of the training session in the event that participants might need to step out to take care of themselves.

It is essential that confidentiality be established at the beginning of each session by expressing the expectation that whatever is disclosed during discussion is considered to be privileged information and therefore not to be shared with anyone outside of the session.

Ask that everyone agree.

To increase training effectiveness, consider utilizing the following steps to adapt to adult learning styles:

- Help participants coalesce as a group through team-building exercises.
- Use a variety of techniques including interactive and small group discussion, role play, and pencil and paper exercises.
- Check for understanding by asking questions or soliciting comments.
- Review and check how information will be transferred into practical use.

General Tips for Trainers

- Engage participants by making eye contact, using people's names, and calling on different people.
- Always find a positive response to a comment someone gives.
- Make the effort to get participants involved, especially in the beginning.
- If it looks like you're losing them, stop and change what you're doing: Ask a question for discussion, or assign a pen and paper exercise.
- You want participants to be either looking up at you or engaged with others, rather than looking at papers. Encourage some note-taking and promise to point out when something is not in the handouts.
- If you're not getting the answers you want, you may not be asking the right questions.
- If a remark seems controversial or you don't have a quick response, say, "that's an interesting idea... what does the rest of the group think about this?"

GUEST PRESENTERS

A guest speaker may be appropriate for parts of the Module VI training. Consider an insurance professional with an awareness of risk management issues. A local Center for Nonprofit Management or other nonprofit association or council could also be a resource for a speaker. Some Chambers of Commerce have resources for nonprofit organizations. Public libraries have information on local resources and speakers bureaus. While each community varies, a little research will yield some appropriate options for speakers.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ≈ Be straight-forward in discussing youth protection issues. While it may seem difficult to discuss the material, it will become easier with practice if you remain focused on the wellbeing of the youth.
- ≈ While the topic of youth protection is obviously a serious one, there may be room for levity within the training session. A light moment may help transition through an awkward topic.
- ≈ Self-defense training may be useful to know when one is alone on a deserted street or dark parking lot. However, girls are much more likely to be harmed by someone they know than be accosted by a stranger. That's what makes youth protection training so important!

*For additional information, please contact Karen Askew at the Supreme Assembly office
918-423-1328, karenaskew@gorainbow.org or saoffice@gorainbow.org.*