



NYSYBC Code of Conduct



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

Basic Rules to Ensure the Safety of Minors at NYSYBC Events

1. 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.
2. Supporting Adult Members and other guests may not publish any photos/images of people taken at any NYSYBC event without written permission from each person in the image and, for those under 18 years of age, his or her parent or legal guardian.
3. If car travel is required during any NYSYBC event, all cars will depart and travel together and drivers must make every effort to stay with the group until its destination is reached.
4. All drivers of minors must be at least 25 years old. By state law, drivers assume liability.
5. NYSOA/NYSYBC will perform a criminal background check for all adults attending in advance of each event. Anyone who does not pass the background check will be disqualified from any further involvement in NYSYBC events or activities.
6. No one under age 18 may participate in any event unless NYSOA/NYSYBC has received, prior to the event, 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.
7. 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.
8. In preparation for each event, the sponsoring Partner Organization will work with the NYSYBC Field Trip or 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 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.

Other Rules

1. NYSYBC is a club for young people. To this end, 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; children under 12 **must** be accompanied by parent or legal guardian throughout the field trip).
 - f. Designated Birding Leader(s) and Chaperone(s) (see #8 above).
 - g. Approved adults providing transportation (see #3, #4, and #7 above).
2. All attendees must bring and carry their own equipment, food, and water.

These rules are subject to change. Updates will be posted on the NYSYBC website.