

Non-Mensan Parent Volunteer Policy

In order to allow local groups to better serve Young Mensans, the Board of Directors has approved that non-Mensan parents of current Young Mensan members may serve as volunteers in the youth programs of Mensa.

If a local group has a currently serving Gifted Youth Coordinator, that GYC will supervise the volunteer's efforts. In the event that a local group has no Gifted Youth Coordinator, parents may assist the Local Secretary. Volunteers must have Local Secretary approval.

This is not a position or office and has no title associated with it. Parents wishing to serve as volunteers must undergo the same background check protocol that exists for Gifted Youth Coordinators and LocSecs wishing to receive the Young Mensan report (as detailed below).

Non-Mensan parents will receive a monthly Young Mensan report. They may be listed on the local group's website as parent volunteers upon approval.

Parent volunteers may host and organize events, assist with sharing information, as well perform other tasks currently performed by Gifted Youth Coordinators. Parents serve with the understanding that they assist the elected and appointed officers.

Procedure

A parent wishing to serve as a volunteer should contact the Gifted Youth Coordinator, if applicable, and the Local Secretary to express a desire to serve. The Local Secretary should notify the national office at GiftedYouth@americanmensa.org that the parent has approval to serve as a volunteer.

The parent should then complete and return the background check form.

Once the background check is complete and clear, the parent will be notified that he/she is approved as a volunteer. This approval must be renewed every three years, and will not be renewed once the parent no longer has children under the age of 18 who are current members of Mensa.

Volunteers will be added to the Gifted Youth Announce and Talk e-lists, and may join the GYC Facebook group.

Background Check Policy for Volunteer Parents

To provide for the safety of children attending functions or events sponsored by Local Groups, background checks are conducted on volunteers working with children at least every three years. American Mensa may conduct an updated background check for any person who is currently serving with children at any point in time at its discretion.

Applicants who have resided outside the United States during the past five years are not eligible to serve as volunteers, as we cannot conduct a full background check.

Issues that **shall** preclude service as a volunteer:

- Current investigation or charges for criminal sexual conduct, neglect of a child, or physical abuse.
- Conviction of any offense (felony or misdemeanor) related to harm to a child. This may include, but is not limited to: traffic accidents, kidnapping, sexual assault of a child, injury to a child, possession or distribution of child pornography, neglect of a child, or indecent exposure. This includes convictions resulting from pleas of *no lo contendere*.
- Any felony conviction within the past ten years.
- Falsifying or withholding information on application.

Issues that **may** preclude service as a volunteer:

- Traffic violations that led to serious injury of a third party.
- Felony convictions older than ten years.
- Misdemeanor convictions not involving children that display disregard for the health, safety, or well-being of others (e.g., DUI).

The final review and determination will be made by a designated group of staff, volunteer and elected leaders who shall review the reports with personal data removed.

If there is found cause to deny the application, under no circumstances will the nature of the offense or the reason for denial be given to other than the applicant, unless required by law.

Any decision to accept or deny the service of a parent as a volunteer is at the sole discretion of American Mensa.

In the case where a background report flags a possible issue in any of the areas as noted above, the applicant will be contacted personally and allowed to withdraw his/her application before any formal notice is given to the local group officers.

Privacy Policy: Information submitted on the application and subsequent report will be kept confidential and secured at all times. Mensa complies with all state and federal requirements for sharing consumer copies of the background check report upon signed written request. Mensa's original copy shall not be released to either the applicant or any third party, except as may be required by law.