

VOLUNTEERING POLICY FOR MINORS (UNDER AGE 18) AT ST. JUDE CHURCH HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

St. Jude Church Helping Hands Food Pantry welcomes volunteers from all parts of the community to assist in accomplishing its mission “to serve others.” This policy is specifically written to address the issue of youth volunteers, those individuals under 18 years of age.

Helping Hands encourages youth volunteers to experience not only the Gospel values learned through volunteering, but also the satisfaction received in performing service to the community.

The safety and security of all youth volunteers while on the pantry premises is the basis for the following guidelines. These guidelines should always be followed regarding youth volunteers. Exceptions to these guidelines will be made by the President of Helping Hands, or their designee, on an individual case-by-case basis only.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Youth volunteers are:

- **Students under the age of 18 and**
- **In grades 7 through 12.**
- **Students below 7th grade are not permitted to volunteer for Helping Hands.**

Youth volunteers are eligible to:

- **Volunteer for the Saturday Distributions *only*. (These are the third Saturday of each month, from 11 AM to 2 PM).**

PROCEDURES

1. **Junior High students (grades 7 and 8) must bring with them to the pantry a signed Parental Permission Form (available at St. Jude School Office) on the first day that they volunteer.**
2. All youth volunteers **must sign in and out** of the pantry on the day that they volunteer at the Registrar’s Desk.
3. All youth volunteers will report to the President of Helping Hands, or their designee, for their assignments after they have signed in.
4. **Any youth volunteer who needs to leave prior to the end of the Saturday Distribution (2 PM) must notify the President of Helping Hands and then sign out.**

St. Jude Boy Scout Troop 133 may volunteer on Tuesday Distributions (the Tuesday following the third Saturday of each month, from 5 to 7 PM) provided that they are accompanied by the required complement of Scout Masters as per the Boy Scouts of America regulations. Parental permission slips will not be required and they will not be required to sign in or out. They will report to their Scout Masters while on the pantry premises and will arrive and leave under their Scout Masters’ supervision.

Questions or concerns regarding these guide-lines for youth volunteers should be directed to the President of Helping Hands at 440-366-0118 or email: helpinghands@saintjudeparish.org.