

PROTECTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

reachyouthministry

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Greetings in Christ!

Thank you for your interest in Reach Youth Ministry and/or for inviting a Reach Team to minister in your area. We appreciate your commitment to the youth in your parish and consider it a privilege to minister to and with them.

I wanted to take this opportunity to assure you that Reach Youth Ministry and the Diocese of Yakima are very much aware of our responsibility to the children, youth, and other vulnerable individuals whom we serve. To that end, it is the policy of the Diocese of Yakima that all employees and/or volunteers who come in contact with children, youth, and other vulnerable individuals undergo a criminal background check prior to their work in the Diocese. Additionally, every Diocesan employee and/or volunteer, regardless of position, must also attend "Sexual Abuse Awareness Training/Safe Environment of Children, Young People and the Vulnerable Training."

What this means specifically at Reach Youth Ministry is that potential team members must *first* undergo the background check process *before* we can invite them to join the team. There are no exceptions. Further, the "Sexual Abuse Awareness Training/Safe Environment of Children, Young People and the Vulnerable Training" part of our Retreat Team Training is *mandatory*. Each team member completes the training and this is kept on record at the Diocesan Offices.

If you need further information pertaining to these diocesan policies, please contact me or Reverend Robert Siler, Chief of Staff for the Diocese of Yakima. He can be reached at (509) 965-7117, and would be happy to answer any specific questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dan Bartleson
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