



YOUTH PROGRAM POLICY

Policy Objective	The purpose of this policy is twofold. Firstly, it is in place to ensure quality and safety to Youth Program participants. Secondly, it is in place to ensure safety and a quality experience for St. John Ambulance Youth Program Leaders by outlining the general training and service standards as well as procedures and guidelines.
Policy Statement	St. John Ambulance is committed to offering a structured program that provides Canadian youth opportunities for personal development. This commitment includes training, certifying, and monitoring Youth Program Leaders and participants.
Effective Date	April 2006
Applies To	All persons affiliated with St. John Ambulance's Youth Program

Policy Context

The St. John Ambulance (SJA) Youth Program provides young people opportunities for personal development and community service, as well as training for first aid, health and safety related knowledge and skills.

Definitions

SJA Youth Program—St. John Junior, Cadet and Crusader Programs together form the Youth Program.

St. John Juniors—The St. John Junior Program is an activity program designed for children between the ages of six and ten. It focuses on having fun and earning awards while learning about SJA and community service. Personal development, home safety skills, how to make new friends, and first aid training are strong components of the program.

St. John Cadets—The Cadet Program is designed for young people between the ages of 11 and 15. Training and activities in the Cadet Program are designed to provide young people with opportunities for personal development and community service under direct supervision by an adult member or Youth Leader to whom they are accountable, as well as training for first aid, health and safety related knowledge and skills.



St. John Crusaders—The Crusader Program is designed for young people 16 and 17 years of age. The Crusader Program provides more advanced first aid training and an emphasis on individual leadership qualities and performing community service under the direct supervision of an adult member or Youth Leader to whom they are accountable. Crusaders can participate in the same activities as Cadets and can take on leadership roles with Juniors or Cadets.

Youth Leaders—includes any individual age 18 or older given responsibility for the overall administration, training, and supervision of Youth Program participants within the SJA Youth Program.

Policy Requirements

1. Youth Program participants must have the written consent of their parent or guardian to enroll in any components of the SJA Youth Program. Members 16 or 17 years of age who are not residing with their parent or guardian may consent on their own behalf.
2. Candidates for enrolment in SJA Cadets must hold and maintain, as a minimum, a valid Emergency First Aid Certificate.
3. Candidates for enrollment in SJA Crusaders must hold and maintain, as a minimum, a valid Standard First Aid Certificate.
4. Candidates for enrollment as a Youth Leader must hold and maintain, as a minimum, a valid Standard First Aid Certificate.
5. Youth Leaders and Assistants includes non-SJA individuals such as parents, etc.
 - 5.1 SJA Youth Leaders and Assistants must be at least 18 years of age and be physically and mentally capable of performing the activities that are reasonable for the type of training, supervision, and service that they will be undertaking.
 - 5.2 Youth Leaders are required to comply with SJA's Screening Cycle Policy which includes specific Youth Leader training and delivery standards.



6. Establishing and Maintaining a Youth Program—to establish a Youth Program, an initial assessment should be conducted in the community as per the SJA *Assessing and Meeting the Needs of Your Community* Manual in cooperation with the local Branch and/or Provincial/Territorial Council to determine:
- program goals and objectives
 - expected outcomes (benefits and risks)
 - financial plan, including anticipated support (business plan)
 - training and resource requirements.
- 6.1 Youth Leaders must be recruited, placed, trained, oriented, supported, and supervised according to the SJA Screening Cycle Policy in roles that are appropriate to their interests and abilities.

See the *Youth Leaders Manual* for complete details and guidelines on how to establish and maintain a Youth Program.

Responsibilities/Accountabilities

The National Office is responsible for:

- developing Youth Program training and delivery standards.

The Provincial/Territorial Council CEO is responsible for:

- delivery and monitoring of Youth Program training and delivery standards and resources, including human resources.

Local supervisor, instructor, volunteer, and employee responsibilities are outlined in the Youth Leaders Manual. Youth Leaders are responsible for:

- the overall administration, training and supervision of Youth Program participants;
- adhering to and promoting all SJA policies and procedures.

Procedures

Complete procedures and guidelines for delivering SJA Youth Program are provided in the *Youth Leaders Manual*.



Resources

Youth Leaders Manual

Youth Leaders Instructor's Guide

Assessing and Meeting the Needs of Your Community Manual

Cadet Proficiency Subject Manual (Grand Prior's Award program Manual)

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed at a minimum of every three years and as required.