

Legal Issues

Legal Issues to Consider

Although it may not be the first thing your team thinks about when working for social change, legal issues can be an important factor in your Venture. Consider the issues below to ensure your team and other participants are protected.

Insurance: Depending on the size and nature of your Venture, you and your team may want to get insurance for your Venture or make sure you fall under another organization's insurance. For example, if you're running a theater group at your school, check with the principal to make sure that the actors are all covered under your school's policy.

Background checks: If your Venture Team connects adults to youth, getting background checks for adult volunteers is advised. Safety of program staff, volunteers, and youth in the program is extremely important as you plan and run your Venture. For more information on background checks, see:

http://www.mentoring.org/take_action/background/performing_checks.php

Taxes: Your Venture may need to pay taxes. It may also be eligible for a tax refund. For more information on taxes, see the website of the Internal Revenue Service, www.irs.gov. Look under "Charities and Nonprofits" and under "Businesses" for relevant information. If you are having difficulty, the "Frequently Asked Questions" link is very helpful. The IRS website may also help your Venture Team as you decide to start up a small business. Click on "Businesses," then "Starting a Business" for more information and links to useful sites that can navigate you through the process.

Permission Slips: Permission slips can be the key to a successful, sustained Venture. Make sure that parents or guardians know where their kids are and that they are safe at all times. Permission slips help make sure youth have the proper permission to go with your team on a field trip or to stay after school. Print out the [Permission Slip](#) in this section to make sure your team members are all communicating with their parent or guardian about your adventures.

More YV Tip Sheets

Check out these additional YV Tip Sheets:

- [Permission Slip](#)