

The Catholic Mutual Connection

Making Youth Ministry Activities Safe and Successful

Youth ministry activities can be faith-forming and community-building... as well as a lot of fun! We applaud youth ministry leaders for always seeking new ways to engage more students and creating meaningful opportunities for young people to serve. It is important to remember, however, that being in new and different environments can often expose us to new and different risks.



There are many steps that (Arch)Dioceses can take to ensure that thriving and service-oriented youth ministry programs remain an asset, not a liability. For example, employees and volunteers should be advised that any and all youth activities must be pre-approved by the (Arch)Diocese and by parents, and that written parental permission should be obtained for all youth activities that take place off-grounds. For more information about youth ministry safety, including [chaperone guidelines](#), [overnight stay guidelines](#) and our Youth Ministry Manual, please see our CARES library. We have also produced a helpful Youth Ministry Curriculum, which can be found on [CMG Connect](#) under Optional Trainings.

Safety Tip

Did you know that March is National Ladder Safety Month? Each year, more than 100 people in the U.S. die of ladder-related accidents and many more are injured. But most ladder accidents are preventable by practicing smart ladder safety, which includes: choosing a ladder that's in good working condition, choosing the right ladder for the job, matching task to talent and age appropriateness, and positioning the ladder and the body safely at all times. Our [CARES library](#) outlines more information that every employee and volunteer who uses a ladder should know before they climb that first rung.

The Dos and Don'ts of Electronic Signatures

Electronic signatures have made many of our transactions easier. And, with technology advancing all the time, e-signatures themselves have never been more secure or easier to obtain. In fact, Catholic organizations are now able to use electronic signatures for everything from fundraising to school permission forms. In order to ensure that these signatures are valid and legally binding, we recommend following the [criteria](#) regarding e-signatures in our CARES library.



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