

## **NSSAR Youth Protection Compliance Statement**

NSSAR acknowledges a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of youth in its charge and is committed to developing and adhering to Youth Protection best practices. Staff and Volunteers must place the welfare and safety interests of youth in their care above all else. All youth and mentors deserve a safe, positive and enjoyable experience while participating in our programs and events. This policy must be implemented and carried out in a manner consistent with federal, state and local law.

NSSAR acknowledges that all youth are vulnerable to victimization and we must be vigilant to ensure everyone's welfare while participating in or observing NSSAR programs and events. As part of our policy staff and volunteers will:

- Prioritize the safety and well-being of all youth in their charge.
- Understand their responsibility in recognizing, identifying and responding to abuse, neglect and other concerns relating to youth.
- Deliver written reports of abuse to the Executive Director within 24 hours of the alleged incident.
- Take action immediately upon witnessing or notification.
- Ensure confidentiality as much as possible for those who report abuse.
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all concerns are kept.
- Prevent contact with known unsuitable individuals. Unsuitability can include but is not limited to individuals on the sex offender registry, or anyone under the influence of illicit substances or alcohol. The Executive Director or the NSSAR designee shall have the authority to make the final determination of what constitutes suitability.
- Ensure reasonable and appropriate abuse barriers are being utilized.

Failures to comply could result in exclusion from organizational activities.

### **Compatriot, Staff and Volunteer Requirements**

- Completion of NSSAR Youth Protection Training or a suitable substitute approved by the Executive Director.
- Verification that the Staff or Volunteer working with youth are not on the state or national sex offender registry.

I understand and agree to abide by all requirements set forth by the NSSAR in this policy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Last reviewed January 2022)