


# Youth in Research Labs Policy

Summer 2026

# INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

These requirements apply to all programs, activities and/or observations that occur with youth present or participating in WVU labs. Faculty and staff members (including graduate students) are responsible for completing all requirements prior to youth participating in their labs. Departments must ensure compliance with applicable labor laws for all minors. If intending to hire an individual under the age of 18, follow the instructions found at talentandculture.wvu.edu/policies-forms-and-resources/hiring-resources/hiring-of-minors

Derived from ehs.wvu.edu/hsc/volunteer-visitor-minor-waivers

If you have any questions or comments about any of the information, please contact:

**Office of Compliance and Prevention Education**

YouthProtection@mail.wvu.edu

**Thank you for your cooperation in assuring that West Virginia University research opportunities are a safe and welcoming environment for youth.**



# I. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

## The Principal Investigator/Faculty/Staff Hosting the Youth Participant(s) must:

- Notify and consult with the University's Youth Protection Specialist and the Department Chair of their program.
- Maintain records outlined in Sections 2.1-2.5.4 of the WVU Youth Programming Policies and Guidelines.
- Ensure all lab staff/adults who will have Direct Contact with the youth participant be fully authorized, outlined in Section 2.6 of the WVU Youth Programming Policies and Guidelines.
- Ensure youth participants know and follow directions, manufacturer instructions, Safety Data Sheets (SDS), training and the Chemical Hygiene Plan requirements for their work activities.
- Ensure youth participants attend the required safety training and wear appropriate personal protective equipment for their work activities.
- Ensure youth participants are appropriately supervised and follow rules.
- Revoke youth participants privileges if rules are not followed.

## The Youth Participant(s) must:

- Sign the WVU Youth Participant Code of Conduct and follow all appropriatedirections from lab staff.
- Observe all safety requirements for the work activity you are performing. This includes, but is not limited to:
- Review and know the hazards associated with the substances and equipment they will use to conduct lab activities.
- Perform activities according to directions, manufacturer instructions, Safety Data Sheets (SDS), training and the Chemical Hygiene Plan.
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment as provided by the lab staff.
- Immediately report all spills, concerns, accidents or exposures to your supervisor/mentor, the Principal Investigator, and HSC Safety Office.
- Complete the appropriate waiver:
  - *International Students and Scholars Information - isss.wvu.edu.*
  - *Release for child under 18 years of age - ehs.wvu.edu/files/d/052b7376-b1e3-48c8-8b6e-e36baa5d4b55/release-for-child-under-18-years-of-age.pdf*
- Be provided and/or attend training appropriate for the work activities they perform or that may be performed by others in their assigned laboratory.

## Youth Participant(s) are prohibited from:

- Working unsupervised in the lab at any time. Supervision ratios and the "Rule of Three" must be followed as defined in Section X of the WVU Youth Programming Policies and Guidelines.
- Handling or manipulating:
  - Organisms at BSL 2 without Chair and Biosafety Officer approval.
  - Organisms at BSL 3, ABSL-3 or higher for recombinant or infectious organisms at any time.
  - Select Agents or controlled substances.
  - Acute Toxins of biological origin.
  - Radioactive materials or ionizing radiation sources Particularly Hazardous Substance (PHS) without prior approval from the Department Chair and the HSC Safety Office.
- Participating in any capacity in laboratories with:
  - Hazard class 3b or 4 open beam lasers.
  - Any area where gamma radiation is used.
  - Select agents or explosives being used or stored.
- Performing research activities with laboratory animals without Chair, OLAR and HSC Safety approval.
- Operating farm machinery or state vehicles.

# II. POTENTIALLY REQUIRED TRAININGS

- WVU Mandatory Hazardous Waste Online Training
  - *ehs.wvu.edu/training/hazard-comm-hazardous-waste-lab-safety-training*
  - *This training is required for all youth participants in a lab setting. Instructions for activating the training account and logging into the training are found on the link. Please note: at the end of each section the screen will say completed, however the training is not complete until the quiz at the end of the training is fully completed and a score of 100% is obtained.including University-owned apartments.*
- SOLE Trainings - sole.hsc.wvu.edu/login
  - *Hazardous Waste*
  - *Hazard Communication*
  - *Laboratory Safety*
  - *Liquid Nitrogen Dry Ice Training*
  - *To register for the above listed training send the following information to ehslabsafety@mail.wvu.edu*
    - *First, middle, last name*
    - *Date of Birth*
    - *When you will need access (date)*
    - *Have you have ever held a WVU account (yes/no)?*

- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
  - *(CITI) Training Portal - citiprogram.org/index.cfm?pageID=86*
- Animal Care and Use (ACU)
  - *Individuals conducting research involving animals must take this training.*
- Biosafety and Biosecurity (BSS)
  - *Individuals working with potentially infectious material must take this training.*
- Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
  - *Individuals working in a clinical setting must take this training.*
- Human Subjects Research (HSR)
  - *Individuals conducting research involving human subjects must take this training.*
- Information Privacy and Security (IPS)
  - *Individuals with access to confidential information must take this training.*
- Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
  - *Individuals conducting any research must take this training*

