



## Volunteer Code of Conduct and Protective Behaviors

In order to be successful as a Club, each club member needs to make a positive impact on the communities we serve. It is important that we conduct ourselves in a way that reflects the mission of Lions. We can achieve success by understanding and adhering to the guidelines outlined below.

- *Have an interest in the activity you are performing. -- Being interested and excited about the activity will reflect to those you are serving and serving with.*
- *Willingness to serve -- Understand that volunteering is a commitment.*
- *Ability to serve -- Do you have the time to commit?*
- *Something of value to contribute -- Share your knowledge and skills.*
- *Professional reputation -- Be ethical, respectful, and cooperative*
- *Reliability -- Will assume necessary responsibilities.*

You may be working closely with children and/or individuals with disabilities. As a volunteer it is important to understand that these are the most vulnerable populations. It is especially important that we conduct ourselves in a way that is above reproach. While you may think your actions are harmless, innocent, or playful, will they seem that way to others? These guidelines will help protect you, our organization, and, most importantly, the people WE SERVE.

- ★ *High fives and fist bumps are recommended ways of saying GOOD JOB.*
- ★ *If the individual wants a hug, use the side hug method, hugging side to side with one arm around the shoulder.*
- ★ *There should be no physical contact within the "swimsuit area," the area of the body that would be covered by a modest swim suit.*
- ★ *Putting a child in your lap is not allowed*
- ★ *Tickling is not allowed.*
- ★ *You should never be alone with a child or individual with a disability for any reason.*
- ★ *Some people with certain cognitive disabilities do not like to be touched. Look for cues or signs that they do not like it; Even a pat on the back can make them uncomfortable.*

Remember that you are representing yourself, our club, and Lions Clubs International. The impression you make could be the person or organization's first and only impression of our club. Make it a good one!

