

BHS Youth Policies

We take the safety of our youth very seriously! As a result, the Barbershop Harmony Society has adopted a detailed Youth Policy Statement. It is required reading for all people involved in planning and promoting Youth in Harmony events. That statement can be found at:

Youth Policy Statement

A Youth Protection Training Program has also been developed and is required by our insurance company to help mitigate risk associated with youth activities. **If you are planning to do a Youth in Harmony Festival or Workshop, this awareness training is required!** This training, assigned and managed by Abuse Prevention Systems, takes roughly an hour to watch the video and complete the quiz. Go to <https://www.barbershop.org/docs/resources-1/youth-protection-documents> and access the “Youth Policy Procedure FAQs” to learn more about this process.

The Barbershop Harmony Society practices a policy of *No Strings Attached* when it comes to our Youth in Harmony efforts! **It's not about trying to recruit young people to join our choruses – it's about sharing the joy of singing with a new generation!** Under the provisions of the Society bylaws and statements of policy, however, young people may become Society members. It is recommended (but not required) that 16 years be considered as the minimum age for membership.

Where membership is to be extended to a young person, his/her parent(s) must give written consent for him/her to become a member of the Society and the chapter. Further, it shall be the responsibility of each chapter to obtain and retain in the chapter files, a signed and currently effective consent agreement and designation form for each Youth Member. You may find that form – and the other helpful forms – at:

<https://www.barbershop.org/docs/resources-1/youth-protection-documents>

You also can find a link to the BHS Youth in Harmony Resource Manual on that page. Although it is quite out of date, there may be some useful information to you contained in that document.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns please contact chapters@barbershop.org or districts@barbershop.org