

Chapter: Volunteer Management
Title: Former TYC Youth as Volunteers

Effective Date: 10/7/08, T-10
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New

ACA Standard(s): N/A

(a) **Policy.**

Subject to certain limitations, individuals who have been discharged from Texas Youth Commission (TYC) jurisdiction may serve as volunteers. Youth who are currently under TYC jurisdiction may not serve as volunteers.

(b) **Procedures.**

(1) **Eligibility Criteria.**

In addition to the eligibility criteria as set forth in VLS.01.01, the following requirements must be met in order for a former TYC youth to be eligible for enrollment as a volunteer:

- (A) at least 18 months must have elapsed since discharge from TYC; and
- (B) evidence of rehabilitation and successful re-entry into the community must be provided.

(2) **Additional Screening.**

(A) When the community relations coordinator believes a compelling reason exists to consider a former TYC youth for enrollment as a volunteer, the coordinator must prepare the following information and forward to the superintendent:

- (i) the nature of the applicant's prior criminal history;
- (ii) the specific and limited role for which the applicant is being considered;
- (iii) the compelling reason for considering the applicant;
- (iv) an explanation of why the applicant does not pose a risk (i.e., evidence of rehabilitation); and
- (v) precautions and controls to ensure youth and facility security are not placed at risk.

(B) The superintendent will review the information and approve or disapprove the request to enroll the former TYC youth as a volunteer.

(3) **TYC References.**

The community relations coordinator will, if possible, contact the youth's most recent case manager and parole officer to provide a recommendation as to whether or not the former TYC youth would be well-suited for volunteer service. The recommendation will be based on the youth's progress in treatment and community re-entry.

(4) **Assignment Restrictions.**

If a former TYC youth is selected as a volunteer, the community relations coordinator may not assign the youth to a volunteer position that is individually matched with a youth of the opposite gender.
