



Diocese of Rockford

Dear Priests and Parish Administrators:

The **Guidelines for Youth and Those Working with Youth** have been **revised** and a copy is attached for your review. All employees and volunteers are to sign the acknowledgement form to the revised Guidelines. Below is a summary of the revisions, which are mostly found at Sections E and F of the Guidelines:

1. Every Activity that occurs **on the premises of** your Diocesan parish, Diocesan school or other Diocesan facility shall have at least one Supervising Adult or one Adult Leader present at the activity. (Examples: chess club, choir practice, boys baseball team practice, First Communion preparation class for 2nd graders, youth ministry group meeting, etc.)
2. The Ratio Rule applies to Activities **away from your premises**. “Away from your premises” means an Activity not on the grounds of your parish/school/diocesan facility.
3. The Ratio Rule applies to **Overnight Activities**, regardless of whether the overnight occurs on your premises or away from your premises.
4. The Ratio Rule DOES apply to an Activity **on your premises** in the following situations: a) when the Activity on your premises is an Overnight Activity; or b) when the pastor or principal determines more than one adult should be present for an Activity on your premises, in which case the pastor or principal may implement the Ratio Rule or may set the specific number of adults that shall be present for the Activity.
5. When the minor participants in an Activity are both male and female AND the participants will be using locker rooms (for changing their clothes) and/or showers, both an adult male and an adult female must be present. This is the case regardless of whether the Activity occurs on your premises or away from your premises.
6. If the minors participating in an Activity **away from the premises** are all one sex (girls tennis team), at least one adult must be that sex.
7. If the minors participating in the Activity **away from the premises** are of both sexes, there must be at least one adult male and one adult female present.
8. If the minors participating in an Overnight Activity are all one sex, at least one adult must be that sex.
9. If the minors participating in an Overnight Activity are of both sexes, there must be at least one adult male and one adult female present.
10. The revised Guidelines include examples to assist you.