



The Mayfly Project Program Rules

We want the mentor/mentee relationship to be fun and easy-going, but safety is our number one priority when working with this fragile population! Please follow these rules at every outing!

Confidentiality: Foster children are to be protected from being identified in the community. We expect our mentors to uphold the laws and to respect the goal of keeping these children protected. Mentors cannot share information about their mentees, which includes information about their caseworkers, parents, foster parents, group homes, or any detail that would identify them in public. You can talk in general about your time with TMP, but every effort should be made to be discreet and ensure the child is unidentifiable to others outside of TMP.

Pictures are not to be shared unless they are approved by the caseworkers (some children that are up for adoption are allowed to be photographed but you must have permission).

Mentors will sometimes learn about the mentee's past, their medical needs, their psychological needs, their case plan, and more. This information should not be shared, nor talked about with the child directly-- the goal is for the child to forget they are in foster care for the day so please try to keep the communication light.

Appropriate Relations and Respecting Space: Mentors are absolutely prohibited from engaging in inappropriate and/or illegal physical contact with their mentee, or in building a relationship outside of TMP. Physical touch should be limited in general; the only appropriate form of touch is hand on the arm or back after permission has been given during casting, a side hug, and high-fives. **Front hugs are not allowed.** This also includes any online communication or texting. Should it be discovered that a mentor has engaged with a mentee inappropriately, or is crossing one of these boundaries, the mentor will be immediately expelled from the program and, if abuse is suspected or a law was broken, a police report will be filed by TMP staff.

Appropriate Behavior and Integrity: Mentors must uphold the integrity of The Mayfly Project and the mission. Mentors are role models for these children and should model healthy behavior, use kind and appropriate language, and not be discriminatory in any way towards any TMP participants.

Substances and Smoking: Mentors may not use illegal substances or abuse controlled substances at any time, or talk with their mentee about these things. Mentors may not consume alcohol, or be under the influence of alcohol or other substances, around our mentees. No smoking is allowed around our mentees as well.

Social Media: We ask that all of our mentors represent TMP well in their communities and online. Since our nonprofit is designed to encourage children in foster care, it is our priority to be a positive example at all times. We ask that you represent us well by not glorifying drugs,

alcohol, or any explicit or abusive behavior on any social media accounts while you are involved with TMP.

Personal Defense Items: Guns, nun chucks, knives, etc. are not allowed at TMP projects where the kids will be able to access them. Keep all of your personal items locked in your vehicle or at home.

Respecting the Outdoors: Be a good example of respecting the great outdoors and the wildlife during your time with the mentees, as you are setting the stage for how they experience the outdoors and treat the outdoors. Practice effective catch and release tactics, do not leave garbage on the river, and show appropriate river etiquette when interacting with other anglers.

Mandatory Reporting: All TMP volunteers are mandatory reporters. This means that if a volunteer is witness to, or obtains knowledge of, abuse or endangerment to a child he or she must report it to authorities immediately.

TMP Outing Rules

Three-Deep Rule and Child Supervision: To protect both the mentor and the mentees, TMP's policy is that a mentor is never alone with a foster care child. In all Mayfly Project activities there must be at least two foster care children per mentee or at least two mentors per foster care child. This is the three-deep rule, which includes trips to the bathroom, trips in the car, anywhere. If a child needs to go to get something, there needs to be a buddy with them or another leader.

When fishing in groups of two, mentors need to be within eyesight and ear-shot of each other so that there is always another adult ready to help if an emergency takes place, and there is always another person there as a witness. **Children are never allowed to be left alone without supervision and should always be within eyesight of the mentor.**

Bathroom Trips: Mentors are not allowed to go into the bathroom with a mentee, unless the stalls are efficient (private) and they have another mentor or mentee with them. Before a child goes into the bathroom, the mentor needs to check the bathroom to make sure there are no other people in the area. Never leave a child alone in the bathrooms unless you know it is vacant.

Scan for Danger: In public settings, the mentor is the mentee's protector- it is the mentor's job to predict possible dangerous scenarios and avoid them, and to make sure the child never feels unsafe or vulnerable. Check for potential drug paraphernalia, self harm objects and dangerous animals before taking a child to outing locations. Be aware of the wildlife in your area and be well educated on the potential dangers of interacting and respecting that wildlife.

First Aid and CPR Certified: Each project outing should have a mentor with them trained in CPR and First Aid, or at least educated in this area, as well as a first aid kit with them for emergencies.

Glasses are Mandatory: Every child needs to have sunglasses or glasses on when fly fishing. If your project doesn't have them, please get them asap.

Basic Water Safety and Project Outing Safety: During an outing, mentees need to have appropriate weather attire, and must be well educated prior to the outing regarding water safety (in curriculum). When planning for an outing, mentors need to choose the most accessible, easiest water to wade, and have prepared their team for how to handle a potential crisis that could arise at that specific location. Every project must go over water safety rules with mentors, staff, and children prior to entering the water, as dictated by the project Lead Mentor.

- All water needs to be checked by mentors prior to allowing children in the water.
- Children that cannot swim, must have a life jacket on them (see the child's registration form).
- If children are wading with waders, a wading belt is required.
- In a river or faster water, children are not allowed to go past their shins while wading and must be within reach of a mentor at all times.
- In slow water, children are not allowed to go past their knees and must be within easy reach of a mentor at all times while in the water.

Transportation: In order to transport you need 3 in the vehicle, your vehicle cleaned out of any harmful items or items you don't want potentially stolen, send a picture of your driver's license and a copy of your car insurance to TMP staff, and communicate with the foster families about any concerns with transportation.

Emergencies: If anyone is injured, harmed, or needs to go to the ER during our outings, their safety is the number one priority. Please ensure they get proper care and the safety of everyone is well thought through. Eventually, TMP staff need to know about these instances so we can follow up as needed and ensure all problems are taken care of.

Termination: By violating any of these rules or expectations you are subject to termination from TMP. If any laws are broken, TMP will report the mentor to law enforcement. Thank you for helping us keep our TMP children and mentors safe!

Thank you for being a mentor with TMP, we value your time, your dedication, and your care for the children who need fly fishing most!! This will be fun!!