



# Membership Handbook

2022-2023

## **Valley Save Our Youth**

*Youth Center*  
4 Fourth Street  
Ansonia, CT  
06401

[www.ValleySaveOurYouth.org](http://www.ValleySaveOurYouth.org)

(203) 751-9109

## VALLEY SAVE OUR YOUTH

*Valley Save our Youth aims to be a bridge between adolescence and adulthood. To provide safe, affordable, educational, life-skills programming and events for teenagers that set them up for success beyond their block.*

### WHAT WE OFFER

Opportunity. Hope. Perspective.  
*Bridging the gap between adolescence and adulthood.*

The Valley Save Our Youth Center is designed to provide young people with a safe environment that supports positive growth and development in the years between adolescence and adulthood.

The Valley Save Our Youth vision for our young people extends far beyond their block, and our team of dedicated mentors aims to be the guiding light on their individual paths toward their own positive futures.

### YOUTH CENTER

The Youth Center at 4 Fourth Street in Ansonia offers a fully functioning computer lab, gaming systems, game tables, and a staff of positive, adult role models. The Youth Center also offers a diverse schedule of in-house developmental, educational, and recreational programming.

### COST & FEES

Valley Save Our Youth intends to make programming accessible to all young people. Whenever possible, our programs, events, and trips will be free of charge.

Should an event or program incur a fee that would prevent participation, please reach out to us to inquire about scholarships or payment options.

### YOUTH CENTER HOURS

**SUMMER HOURS:** Monday – Friday, 3:00pm – 8:00 pm  
Saturdays: Programs and Events

## Pickup Policy

Please ensure that you take note of the time of our programs. Once the program ends, our staff leave the building. We are unable to keep the building open beyond posted hours, and as such, we rely on parents to pick their children up promptly. Should parents be late for any reason, we ask that you

- Call the Youth Center to inform program staff at:

Please note that continued late pickup may result in your child's inability to participate in scheduled programming.

PLEASE NOTE: If a child has not been picked up within 1 hour of our closing time, our program staff will call the child's parents at all contact numbers on record. When all avenues of reaching parents have been tried, emergency contacts have been called, and more than 1 hour passes, we have no other choice but to turn custody of the child over to the Ansonia Police Department. Two staff members at least 18 years of age or older will remain with them at all times.

## Trip Registration

All off-premise trips require a permission slip to be filled out by a parent or guardian prior. Some trips may require additional permission slips. When registering, please ensure that all contact information is current so that you stay informed on trip deadlines and additional waivers. Permission slips are collected on a first-come, first-serve basis.

PLEASE NOTE: Valley Save Our Youth is unable to accommodate deadline extensions for permission slips or waivers unless previously discussed. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that all deadlines for permission slips, waivers, or fees are met.

## Transportation Expectations

Valley Save Our Youth will use professional bussing services for transportation to and from trips. Explicit permission to utilize the bus service will be required and is included in the trip permission slip.

We expect field trip participants to know and understand the below transportation expectations and to behave appropriately at all times. Failure to meet transportation expectations may result in the inability to participate in future Valley Save Our Youth trips or events.

- Participants must be respectful of the bus/car/van, drivers, Valley Save Our Youth Staff, and peers at all times.
- If a member breaks or damages anything in or on the bus or any part of the bus by negligence or misbehavior, parents will be responsible for payment of all damages.
- Fighting, vandalism, horseplay, foul language, name-calling, and mistreatment of peers, staff, or driver are not allowed. Members must notify VSOY staff of conflicts so they can receive assistance in handling their problems.
- Hands must be kept inside the bus at all times. Any object thrown out of the window will result in immediate dismissal from the trip via phone call to the parent or guardian with the expectation that their child is picked up from the excursion location. If the driver is ticketed, the fees will be assessed to the parents. This offense violates state laws (no littering).
- Any member suspended or expelled from the bus will not be given a refund should fees have been assessed. Any member suspended or expelled from the bus will be ineligible to take future trips without further consideration of VSOY leadership.

## **Youth Center Rules & Policies**

### *Membership*

To become a member of the Valley Save Our Youth Center located at 4 Fourth Street Ansonia, you must be 13-18 years of age, and sign-up in person. Your parent or guardian's signature will be required for trips and events. There is no cost to become a member.

### *Entering and Leaving the Youth Center*

- Members must sign in at the Membership Desk upon arrival.
- Parents must pick their child up at the Membership Desk.
- Sign-Out is required before leaving the Youth Center.
- Valley Save Our Youth is not responsible for children who leave the building without permission.

## Behavior Expectations

Valley Save Our Youth aims to create a safe, positive, fun environment for all members. To minimize the need for disciplinary interventions, Valley Save Our Youth members are expected to understand and abide by all Youth Center rules. Parents, guardians and volunteers are expected to follow the same behavior guidelines within the Youth Center.

### *Youth Center Expectations*

- Respect is given to Youth Center equipment and facilities, staff, volunteers, and peers at all times.
- Appropriate language is used at all times.
- Safe behavior is expected: displays of violence including physical violence, threats of violence will not be tolerated.
- Breaking equipment through misuse or vandalism will require reimbursement.
- Valley Save Our Youth is a smoke and nicotine-free environment. Smoking and vaping are prohibited.
- Use or possession of alcohol, drugs, or illegal substances will not be tolerated.

*Membership to the Valley Save Our Youth Center can be revoked at any time if the above expectations are not met.*

## Personal Belongings

Valley Save Our Youth is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items, including, but not limited to: cell phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, lap tops, readers, headphones, money, and clothing. To avoid items being lost or stolen, members are encouraged to leave all personal items at home.

## Emergency Procedures

If a member becomes ill while at the Youth Center or on a Youth Center trip, VSOY staff will contact the parent or guardian immediately. It is expected that the member be picked up within 30 minutes after the call. In case of an accident, the parent or guardian will be contacted right away to determine the status of medical attention required and the best manner to provide adequate and proper aid. Emergency situations will be taken to the hospital immediately, including the transportation of the member to the hospital by ambulance if necessary.

### *COVID-19*

We follow all local, state, and federal guidelines pertaining to COVID-19. Changes in status will be posted on our Facebook and website. Valley Save Our Youth will follow all relevant COVID-19 protocols for trips including providing attendee vaccination status and/or wearing masks

should the excursion destination require such. In this case, parents and guardians will be notified in advance. Masks are not provided by Valley Save Our Youth, and should one be required, participants will be expected to provide their own.

## Medications

If your child requires an epi-pen or inhaler, please contact VSOY at [VSOYAnsonia@gmail.com](mailto:VSOYAnsonia@gmail.com). The Valley Save Our Youth Center does not accept or administer any other medications. We will, however, make reasonable accommodations for a parent or guardian to come administer any other needed medications. If your child is attending a trip or event, must know of any medications your child takes, in case of emergency.

*Please note that the Youth Center is not a peanut-free facility.*