

Á:se Tahonatehiaróntie

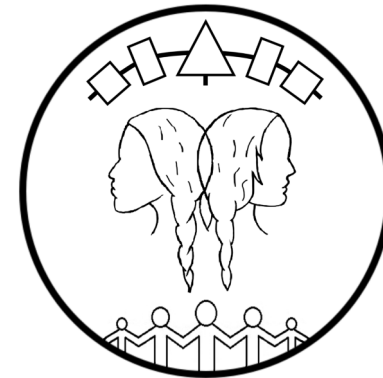
TEEN GROUP

**Monday & Wednesday
6:00pm - 8:30pm
K.S.C.S. Whitehouse**

Contact Us

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Policy Manual

2019-2020



**Kahnawa:ke Shakotii'a'takehnhas
Community Services**



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Dress Code

As a part of Á:se Tahonatehiaróntie Teen Group, we do a lot of work with the public (volunteering, community events, etc.). It is important to maintain a level of respectability as we are representing our group and KSCS. We also play sports and participate in other physical activities. It is important to dress in clothing that will not limit participation.

- No Profanity (on T-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.)
- No exposed undergarments
- Appropriate clothing for each activity

If a member is dressed inappropriately, they will be asked to change their attire, or will not be able to participate.

Behaviour

In the event of a physical altercation or verbal harassment towards a member or facilitator, parents/guardians will be called and participant(s) will be asked to leave for the evening.

Social Media

The use of social media is prohibited between staff and group members or parents of group members. Photos and videos will not be posted, and communication kept to a minimum to ensure the privacy and confidentiality for all parties.

*Consent and Release form and Participation Contract **MUST** be signed and brought back to the Whitehouse in order for youth to attend programming.

Disclosures

Given the safe environment that the Whitehouse provides, it is not uncommon that disclosures may happen from time to time.

It is our responsibility as facilitators to ensure that each member is safe at all times. If there is a concern for any members safety it is our responsibility to:

- Inform the parent/guardian of the situation or disclosure and set a time for follow up or updates to ensure that things are put in place for the members safety and well being.
- If the allegations involve a parent/guardian, they will be informed that either an on-call worker or a social worker will be contacted to further assess and assist with safety measures for the teen.

Problems, Concerns or Complaints Procedure

If you have any problems, concerns or have a formal complaint, please approach the facilitators and discuss the issue. Facilitators can be reached by e-mail (page 12) or by phone during office hours 8:30am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 4:30pm. If possible, please refrain from telephoning during program hours so we are able to fully commit our energy to the group activity of the evening.

If you feel that your concerns haven't been properly addressed, a written letter describing the problem can be sent to the attention of Lisa Two-Axe, Team Leader of Primary Prevention.

Our Purpose

Our purpose for Á:se Tahonatehiaróntie Teen Group is to empower youth. The member-led group will set the direction that will allow them to work together in a holistic (mind, body, spirit) way, to promote global citizenship while giving back to the community.

It is a prevention program which offers leadership skills and social life skills while encouraging healthy decision making, and positive lifestyles. It is a safe, open, and trusting place for teenagers to come and participate in discussions and lessons outside of school curriculums, build and foster healthy relationships, learn communication and life skills, and gain self-esteem.

Goals

- Encourage healthy decision making and a healthy lifestyle.
- Build self-esteem
- Give youth a voice
- Create strong leaders
- Instill strong cultural roots
- Holistic Development - Mind, Body, Soul
- Promote global citizenship
- Community Involvement - Volunteering, fundraising
- Encourage and model respectfulness
- Foster healthy, lasting friendships

Topics

To encourage healthy decision making and a healthy lifestyle

- Planting
- Healthy Cooking
- Healthy Active Hobbies
- Safe Grad
- Healthy Sexuality
- Community Event Participation
- Addictions
- Mental Health
- Healthy Relationships
- Healthy Communications
- Cultural Activities
- Stress Management
- Team Building

To volunteer

- Mohawk Miles
- Zombie Run
- Spirit of Wellness
- Holiday Parade
- Winter Carnival
- Young Adults Program
- Independent Living Center
- Turtle Bay Elder's Lodge
- Kateri Food Basket
- Step by Step Child & Family Center
- Music 4 Miracles
- Various community-based opportunities

To fundraise

- For programming
- "Giving Back" Initiatives
- For social causes & donations

Attendance

Members are expected to attend each session throughout the year to be able to get the most out of this experience, as well as to stay informed with events and to foster good group cohesion. We will be taking attendance each night. **Members must attend 3/4 workshops a month in order to be eligible for outings.** Volunteering will also be taken into consideration.

We understand that the lives of a teenager are sometimes hectic and should the teen be unable to attend, the member and/or parents are responsible to inform the facilitators. Attendance is also used to gauge whether a member is eligible to participate in extra curricular activities. If the teen does not attend the Teen Group for 2 consecutive weeks without notification, facilitators will contact parents/guardians to check in.

Facilitators are responsible for the teens once they arrive at the Whitehouse. Please feel free to call and confirm your teens attendance. Group members are not permitted to leave the Whitehouse premises during programming unless accompanied by a facilitator.

Parent Participation

As we are a non-profit group, fundraising and volunteering is a part of our program. Parents are expected to participate on a regular basis.

Teen Group facilitators will make every attempt to keep parents/guardians informed with all aspects of the Teen Group. The facilitators will communicate through email on a consistent basis, but should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us at the Whitehouse (450) 635-8089.

Group Expectations

The Teen Group's expectations will be created by the members and are basic rules of common courtesy and respect.

Basic rules the group members will add to are:

1. Respect for members, facilitators and the building.
2. Zero tolerance on drugs, alcohol or tobacco.
3. Do not use the Teen Group as a cover story, must sign and sign out with correct time.
4. Confidentiality (see disclosures, page 10).
5. No Swearing.
6. NO BULLYING .
7. No violence will be tolerated (verbal, physical, social).
8. Participation .
9. Permission slips and/or fee deadlines must be respected for all extra curricular outings .
10. Unless other arrangements with parents have been made prior to a trip, members must travel to and from the Whitehouse with the group.
11. Members are responsible for bringing their own spending money. **No borrowing money.**
12. Participation in the fundraising initiatives is required.

Criteria for Field Trips

Throughout the year, the Teen Group will offer a number of different field trips and extra curricular activities. In order for members to participate in these activities, members must:

- Attend the Teen Group on a regular basis
- Actively participate in the group activities
- Follow the group expectations

Create Strong Leaders

- Initiative Tasks
- Cook Off
- Group Building activities
- Teen's Choice Nights
- Special Dinner Planning
- Volunteer Planning
- Fundraising Planning

Promote Global Citizenship

- Kateri Food Basket
- Going Green Activities
- Respect & Equality
- "Giving Back" Initiative
- Collaborating with other organizations

Instill Strong Cultural Roots

- Youth/Community Exchanges
- Museum Trips
- Traditional Arts & Crafts
- Use of Language
- Guest Speakers:
 - Legends
 - Teachings
 - Medicines
 - Wellness
 - Ceremonies
- Traditional Cooking
- Youth Conferences
- Educational Tourism
- World Holidays & Events
- Family Singing Nights & Socials

Hours, Days & Pick Up Time

The group will use the following schedule.

Monday & Wednesday

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Building is closed at 8:30pm
Doors will be locked by 9:00pm

Members are in charge of their own transportation.
Facilitators are not responsible to provide transportation.

Breaks, Closures and Holidays

The Teen Group will follow the Kahnawake Education Centre calendar. Meaning, throughout the school year, the Teen Group will be closed during all holidays as well as Christmas and March Break.

In the event that Kahnawake schools are closed due to poor weather (i.e. snow day) The Teen Group will also be cancelled for that evening.

Personal Belongings

Teen Group is **NOT responsible** for damaged, lost or stolen items. The teen is responsible for any electronics brought to the Whitehouse, (games, cell phone, iPod/iPad, etc.). If any item becomes disruptive to the group, the facilitators reserve the right to confiscate the item for the remainder of the evening.

Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

Teen Group believes in role modelling a healthy lifestyle, and wishes to promote responsibility.

There is a zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol at the KSCS Whitehouse. Staff is mandated to contact parents, police, and an on-call kscs worker for any teens that are suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

If it is suspected that a parent/guardian is under the influence of drugs or alcohol and is driving, the Teen Group facilitators are obligated to inform the Kahnawake Peacekeepers. Your teen **WILL NOT** be allowed to leave with an impaired driver and if necessary an on-call social worker will be contacted.

Meals & Snacks

The Teen Group will prepare a FREE healthy, meal once a month and a snack will be provided the other evenings. **If the teen has ANY food allergies please let the program facilitators know immediately.**

**The Whitehouse is a
PEANUT/NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT**

Photographs & Video

All photographs and video taken at/or on group time are the property of the Teen Group and KSCS. Pictures and/or videos that are taken throughout the year may be used for promotional purposes or reports. **No pictures and/or video footage will be uploaded to any social media websites. All members must sign the "Informed consent and release form" distributed by K.S.C.S.**