

Youth Officer Role

in Mountaineering Ireland Affiliated Clubs



Club Responsibility

Mountaineering Ireland affiliated Clubs that have under 18's as members, or who allow under 18's to attend their meets unaccompanied by their own parent(s) or a specified adult in loco parentis are required to:

1. Adopt the Mountaineering Ireland Children's Policy
2. Appoint a Youth Officer
(The name of this role is not important. For instance, some clubs use the title Welfare Officer, or Club Youth Co-ordinator, and so on. What is important is the role that this person plays in the club).

It is the responsibility of the club (if they admit under 18's unaccompanied by parents), to appoint a suitable Youth Officer and inform Mountaineering Ireland that they have done this.

What is a Youth Officer

The Youth Officer is responsible for raising awareness of the issues of Child Protection within the club and working towards implementing Mountaineering Ireland's Children's Policy. The Youth Officer is the key contact within the club for managing the child protection procedures set out in Mountaineering Ireland's Children's Policy (which can be downloaded from www.mountaineering.ie)

A typical Youth Officer will be:

- An adult club member
- An experienced hill-walker, climber or mountaineer.
- Ideally have experience of supervising or working with young people
- Already be a registered Mountaineering Ireland volunteer or prepared to be registered.
- Willing to attend training that will enable them to fulfil the requirements of the role.

What a Youth Officer Needs To Do

- Read Mountaineering Ireland's Children's Policy
- Consult Mountaineering Ireland's National Children's Officer.
- Attend a Safeguarding & Child Protection Awareness course and other appropriate training
- Work towards implementing Mountaineering Ireland's Children's Policy within the club
- Inform and advise the club and its member on Child Protection issues
- If a club is running a specific youth event where there are under 18s not with their own parents or a specified person in loco parentis, ensure that there are suitably vetted people supervising the children and that everyone is clear about their roles and responsibilities.
- Pass Child Protection concerns to Mountaineering Ireland National Children's officer.