

Policy for Allowing Unaccompanied Minors on Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter Outings

An unaccompanied minor is defined as a person who is under 18 years of age and who is not accompanied on the outing by a parent, legal guardian, close relative, or other person who can function in loco parentis.

An outing leader may allow an unaccompanied minor on an outing. Whether to do so is entirely up to the leader.

The recommended minimum age of an unaccompanied minor is 15. A leader may accept a minor as young as 12 if the leader has personal experience with the minor in circumstances similar to the outing and is confident that the minor is capable of completing the outing. The leader must screen the minor in the same manner as any other participant. Because the leader may have to make necessary medical decisions for the minor in an emergency, as part of this process, the parent or guardian must tell the leader about any medical issues that may arise on the outing.

A parent or guardian must accompany the minor to the meeting place for the outing even if the minor is a licensed driver. An unaccompanied minor that does not arrive with their parent or guardian will not be allowed to participate in the outing. The parent or guardian must sign the Adirondack Mountain Club's Release of Liability, Release of Liability for Minor, and Authorization by Person in Parental Relation for Emergency Medical Care forms. As required by the emergency medical care form, the minor must carry a copy of his or her medical insurance ID card on the outing.

The parent or guardian must provide the outing leader with a contact telephone number that will be available during the entire outing.

At least two adults must be present with the minor at all times during the outing. One of the adults must be the leader.

If the minor needs to be picked up at the end of the outing, the parent or guardian must agree to be available to pick up the minor during the arrival window, which may be several hours long, given by the leader. The parent or guardian must understand that the length of an outing is difficult to predict and that delays are possible.

At the conclusion of the outing, the outing leader must stay at the meeting site until the minor has left. The minor can be either picked up or can leave in his or her own car (the ability of the minor to drive home from the outing does not eliminate the need for the parent or guardian to accompany the minor to the meeting place for the outing and sign all forms).

Approved by the Executive Committee on March 4, 2015.