

**Please Fax Completed Form
to 770-966-7891 or Email to
acworthprcrd@acworth.org**



**City of Acworth
Coach and Volunteer Application**

Please check one of the boxes below indicating which sport or activity you are submitting this application for:

- Acworth Baseball Association Horizon League Acworth Youth Basketball League
 Acworth Youth Football and Cheerleading Association Other: _____

Background Check Authorization:

I hereby **authorize** the **Acworth Police Department** to conduct a criminal background check, which may be in the files of any federal, state or city criminal justice agency nationwide. This criminal history check is being performed at my request and on behalf of the City of Acworth and/or respective volunteer organizations.

I further understand that the findings of the background check can be shared with the City of Acworth and the volunteer organization. Any applicant who does not meet standards will be notified via the contact information below. Applicants are not to begin volunteering until they have been notified by the city and/or organization of their eligibility through the respective approved volunteer list and/or other designated method of notification.

Specifically, I understand that any of the following convictions or pending charges including, but not limited to (1) Any felony during one's lifetime, (2) Any crime against children during one's lifetime and, or (3) any misdemeanor drug offense within the last ten years will disqualify me from serving as a volunteer or coach for the City of Acworth and/or the respective organizations. The City of Acworth reserves the right to reject any applicants based on the best interest of the city and/or the volunteer organization.

Date of Request _____

Full Name Printed _____

Sex _____ Race _____

Maiden Name, Aliases, Name Changes _____

Date of Birth _____

Street Address _____

Social Security Number _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Signature _____

Cell Phone _____

Mandated Reporter Acknowledgement:

I have received and reviewed the Mandated Reporter Training packet from the City of Acworth. The PDF version is attached, along with a video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFkQc7_U-Mc. In-person training dates are posted on www.acworthparksandrecreation.org on the Volunteer Information tab. I understand that I am required by law to report any suspected instances of child abuse to the proper channels and failure to do so can result in criminal charges. The City of Acworth is not responsible for my failure to report suspected instances of child abuse through the proper channels. By signing below, I acknowledge that the City of Acworth has provided me with the information and resources necessary to properly report suspected child abuse.

Signature _____

Date _____

For Office Use Only:



Date Received: _____

Background Check: Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards

Officer Signature _____


Mandated Reporter Training

Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department

Mandated Reporting of a Child

- ☞ The law now requires all employees and volunteers that work with children to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child.
- ☞ The law took effect June 1, 2012 that includes volunteers to be considered Mandated Reporters.




What is your responsibility with this law?

- ☞ You must report any suspected child abuse to the proper authorities within 24 hours.
- ☞ You must have reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused.
- ☞ You are immune from criminal or civil liability if the report is made in good faith.
- ☞ You can be charged with a MISDEMEANOR if you FAIL TO REPORT ANY SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE.



What types of abuse are there?


- ☞ Physical injury inflicted upon a child that is non-accidental
- ☞ Neglect or exploitation of a child
- ☞ Sexual abuse of a child
- ☞ Sexual exploitation of a child



What are indicators of physical abuse?


- ☞ Bite marks
- ☞ Scratches
- ☞ Welts
- ☞ Bruises in a pattern or that take on the shape of an item
- ☞ Fractures/Dislocations that are unexplained
- ☞ Bald spots on the scalp

**These do not always indicate abuse, but if frequent and unexplained, could be an indicator



What are indicators of neglect?

- ☞ Hoarding or begging for food
- ☞ Poor hygiene
- ☞ Inappropriate clothing or clothes do not fit
- ☞ Frequent and unexplained absences at events
- ☞ Unmet medical or emotional needs
- ☞ Inadequate supervision



What are indicators of sexual abuse?

- ☞ Difficulty sitting or walking
- ☞ Pain or itching in the genital area
- ☞ Inappropriate sexual overtones while playing
- ☞ Advanced knowledge of sexual activity
- ☞ Fear of people, places or specific activities
- ☞ Change in patterns of behavior and socialization



What is sexual exploitation of children?

- ☞ Any sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value
- ☞ This can include
 - ☞ Street prostitution
 - ☞ Pornography
 - ☞ Pimping
 - ☞ Escort Services
 - ☞ Internet-based exploitation



What should you do if a child discloses abuse?

- ☞ Stay calm
- ☞ Do not act visibly shaken or upset
- ☞ Praise the child for telling you
- ☞ Don't ask questions that are leading (example: "Did mommy do this to you?")
- ☞ Do not make any promises to the child (i.e. that you'll keep this a secret)



Who do you report abuse to?

- ☞ Baseball Association
 - ☞ Report Abuse to League Official on Board
- ☞ Football and Cheerleading Association
 - ☞ Report Abuse to League Official on Board
- ☞ Basketball League
 - ☞ Report Abuse to Recreation Coordinator
- ☞ Summer Camp Counselors
 - ☞ Report Abuse to Camp Director
- ☞ Horizon League
 - ☞ Report Abuse to Special Populations Coordinator



After the Report

- ☞ Please keep all reports confidential.
- ☞ Your obligated responsibility by law is complete.
- ☞ Don't treat children any differently.
- ☞ Don't forget boundaries when volunteering, especially with social media.



Thank you for volunteering!

For more information:
Read the full code of O.C.G.A. §19-7-5 or contact
The Cobb County Division of Children and Family Services at
770-528-5000

