



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

ROSLYN JOHNSON, *Director*
Department of Recreation and Parks

December 9, 2021

Dear Recreation and Nature Council Presidents,

In light of recent lack of compliance regarding background checks for all volunteers and in accordance with Baltimore County Council Bill 20-14, passed April 7, 2014, the Department will be enacting the following changes to operations related to the Volunteer Background Check process. As a reminder, it is not a new policy for volunteers to complete and have passed background checks, every year, prior to commencing program operations and working with participants. These rules were enacted for the safety of ALL participants. These operational changes are effective January 3, 2022 and it is anticipated that those recreation and nature councils that are out of compliance, will quickly come within compliance.

- All volunteers, as defined in Bill 20-14, are required to have passed a volunteer background check every year, prior to engaging in any activities.
- Recreation and nature councils are required to provide their assigned community office a complete list of all volunteers, immediately for those programs already in operation, and in the future, at least two weeks prior to the start of programs or events.
- Community office staff will compare the provided list with the countywide approved volunteer list.
- Recreation and Parks staff working at program sites will be provided a master list of approved volunteers for each program. Volunteers who are not on the list will not be permitted to be in the control, care and custody of participants, and programs will be cancelled.
- Volunteers will need to check in with Recreation and Parks staff at each site and present photo identification to ensure that they are authorized to volunteer.
- At no time will an individual who is not on the approved volunteer list be authorized to volunteer at any Baltimore County site.

These measures will ensure the safety of the County's most precious treasure, our children. The protection of our children is one of the paramount responsibilities of the Department of Recreation and Parks. Additionally, the County will not indemnify any council that is out of compliance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Roslyn Johnson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Roslyn Johnson, Director