



**Appropriate Activities for SVP Members  
and Volunteers aged under 18  
and all those attending school**

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## Activities for Young Members and Volunteers (aged under 18 and those attending school)

The following list provides some ideas and options for young SVP activities; they are divided into variety of activity type each of which relates to the work of SVP. There are some ideas under each type of activity but please note these are just examples, there are lots more things your group can do!

Remember all activities require adequate and appropriate supervision and parental consent, please contact us if you have any concerns, questions or require any support establishing activities.

<p><b>Befriending Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elderly groups</li> <li>• Groups with disability</li> <li>• Groups with special needs</li> <li>• Mentoring / support for younger students (eg 1st years / Buddy Programmes)</li> <li>• Wide variety of activities can be used as part of these; reading, chats, baking, sports, music/dance, film, art/craft...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Education Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared reading projects</li> <li>• Study support groups</li> <li>• English language support</li> <li>• Lunch time activities</li> <li>• Peer education programmes</li> <li>• Music / language / sports based activities</li> <li>• Homework club</li> <li>• Maths club</li> </ul>
<p><b>Campaigns and Debates;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and run a campaign on a topic / issue important to the group. Campaigns can be run in a number of locations for example; School / Local Community / Other groups</li> <li>• Host debates within the school / other setting that explore issues of social justice / exclusion or other topics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Direct Aid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide direct support to groups in the community / school / locality / other</li> <li>• Fundraising for specific projects</li> <li>• Collections for Hampers / other items</li> <li>• Volunteering in a 'Vincent's' shop</li> </ul>
<p><b>Research &amp; Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selecting specific topics of interest to group</li> <li>• Exploring the issue</li> <li>• Gaining a greater understanding of the causes and impact of the issue</li> <li>• Examining possible solutions</li> <li>• Taking action to address the issue based on the research</li> </ul>	<p><b>Awareness Raising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selecting specific topics of interest to group</li> <li>• Organising events / activities that raise awareness of the chosen issue to a particular group eg within the school or other community</li> <li>• Ensuring accurate and appropriate information provided to others about issues</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other / miscellaneous</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Mini Social Enterprise within the school / community</li> <li>• Upcycling project designing and selling donated clothes</li> <li>• Set up a Mini Vincent's Shop in school</li> <li>• Make a video / film</li> <li>• Advocacy / Lobbying Projects</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hold an Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organising events within school community for a specific cause</li> <li>• Fashion Show, Sports tournaments, Clothes Drives / Sales, Sponsored events</li> <li>• Drama, Play, Concerts, Dance Show, Make a Movie</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>

## Unsupported Activities

SVP has a **duty of care** to all those engaging in and availing of SVP services and activities.

With this in mind it is necessary ensure that both young people and client groups receive **quality of service** that is consistent with the aims and values of the Society.

SVP services / activities must always be:

- a) appropriate to client groups needs and
- b) matched with members / volunteers experience / capabilities / knowledge etc.

The **level of risk** involved in any given activity is of considerable interest and can include risks of a physical, emotional or social nature.

It is essential to consider what the level of risk that either the young person or the client may have **exposure to** through any given activity.

It is also necessary to consider the **capacity of the young person** to deal with issues / situations that could potentially arise / that they could be exposed to in the course of their SVP activities. We need to consider what the **impact of this exposure** could be on them.

A young volunteer may not have the necessary **experience, knowledge or skills** to deal with client / individuals needs within a given situation and as such we must consider what impact this could have for **both parties**.

If either a young person or a client / service user has a negative experience within SVP what is the potential impact firstly for them but also for the organisational / SVP reputation?

In line with the above considerations **SVP does not support** the following activities for **U18 members / volunteers to engage in**:

- Visits to people in their own homes
- Unsupervised activities with people who are vulnerable & / alone (including soup runs and similar outreach activities)

Remember all activities must be directly supervised by an appropriate adult or occur within an adequately supervised structure (e.g. school).

**You will find a list of alternative options overleaf, this list is not exhaustive, and can be added to. Please contact a member of the Youth Development Team if you have any more ideas / queries in relation to activities for U18 SVP members / volunteers.**

## Young SVP: Appropriate Activities for U18s and those attending school

**Go Ahead!**

**Green = GO**

- Campaigning
- Awareness raising
- Research projects
- Collections (toys, food, clothes)
- ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMME

**EVENTS HELD IN THE SCHOOL SETTING; some examples...**

- Fundraising / events within school
- Fashion Shows
- Appeals
- Talent Shows
- Social Justice Projects
- Education Projects
- Cross-Community Projects
- Intergeneration projects
- Direct aid projects

**Proceed with caution**

**Amber = CAUTION**

- Befriending projects linking with other services eg Nursing Home Visitation
- Homework Clubs / paired reading or other education projects
- Visits to children's ward/hospital
- Linking with Homeless services
- Collections / Bag Packs
- Leaflet Drops
- Events / parties for outside groups (children / older people / with disabilities)
- Fundraising events outside school setting
- Sponsored activities such as fun run / Fasts
- Volunteering in SVP Services

**STOP; Inappropriate**

**Red = STOP**

- Home Visitation / Meeting people in their own / private homes
- Soup Runs / similar Outreach activity
- Foreign trips / travel outside Ireland
- Providing / administering financial assistance

• Remember; SVP members can NEVER work / volunteer alone

This list is not exhaustive - if you have other ideas please contact us to discuss and to ensure they are supported by SVP policy  
**PARENTAL CONSENT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SVP ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT BY YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18**