

Adult Advisor Guide

What YouthConnect Network expects from adult advisors, and how to support a youth-led chapter without taking it over.

The advisor's role in one sentence

You provide adult presence, safety oversight, continuity, and guidance — while young people make the decisions and do the work.

Who can serve

- Aged 21 or older.
- Willing to be named in a chapter application and contacted by YouthConnect Network.
- Able to attend or arrange adult coverage for chapter meetings and community activities.
- Willing to follow the Youth Safety and Conduct Guide, including the two-adult and no-one-to-one-private-contact expectations.
- Willing to comply with any screening, background check, or supervision requirements imposed by the host site — for example a school district, HOA, or partner nonprofit.

What advisors do

Do	Do not
Ensure an adult is present at chapter activities.	Chair the meeting or set the agenda.
Ask questions that help youth think through a plan.	Make the decision for them.
Flag safety, liability, and logistics issues early.	Quietly fix problems without teaching.
Connect the chapter to adults and institutions.	Speak for the chapter without them.
Escalate anything outside chapter authority to YouthConnect Network.	Sign anything on the chapter's behalf.

Boundaries chapters cannot cross

Advisors are asked to hold the line on the following. If a chapter is asked to do any of these, route it to admin@youthconnect.network.

- Open bank or financial accounts in the name of YouthConnect Network or Janga Bahadur Foundation.
- Sign contracts, leases, vendor agreements, or memoranda of understanding.

- Issue tax receipts or acknowledge charitable donations for tax purposes.
- Legally bind, obligate, or represent YouthConnect Network or Janga Bahadur Foundation.
- Endorse candidates, parties, or ballot questions, or engage in partisan political activity.

A realistic time commitment

- One 45–60 minute chapter meeting every two weeks.
- One community activity per month, typically two to three hours.
- Occasional email with YouthConnect Network.
- A short quarterly check-in on chapter health and youth wellbeing.

Supporting without steering

- Wait ten seconds before answering a question. Youth usually get there.
- Ask "what have you already tried?" before offering a solution.
- Let small, recoverable failures happen — they are the curriculum.
- Praise process publicly, correct privately.

Escalation

Contact YouthConnect Network immediately at admin@youthconnect.network for any safety concern, disclosure of harm, conduct violation, media request, legal or financial request, or partisan political pressure on the chapter.

YouthConnect Network is a fiscally sponsored initiative of Janga Bahadur Foundation. YouthConnect Network is not a separate legal entity. This document is informational guidance for chapters and partners and is not legal advice.

Questions: admin@youthconnect.network · Version 1.0 · Last updated: August 2, 2026