



**Guideline to Minors:**

# **Safe Human Practices**

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**To Future iGEM Teams**

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BASIS-China 2025

Our Team

# BASIS-China 2025

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We are team BASIS-China iGEM 2025, comprising 18 members from multiple BIBS-C campuses. Driven by a shared passion for synthetic biology, we embark on the journey of iGEM together. For us, iGEM is not only one academic competition, but a chance to solve the world's problems using innovative minds and ideas.



# Introduction

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Our team member interviewing experts.

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Minors (typically under 18) have unique vulnerabilities: limited decision-making capacity, heightened risk of physical/ emotional harm, and legal protections (e.g., child welfare laws) that mandate adult responsibility. Human Practices activities, whether research, community engagement, or educational projects, often involve minors interacting with new environments and people. Without structured safety measures, minors face risks like:

- Physical harm (e.g., unsafe spaces, unsupervised tasks),
- Emotional distress (e.g., pressure to share private information, unaddressed conflicts),
- Privacy violations (e.g., unauthorized sharing of their data),
- Legal consequences for organizers (e.g., non-compliance with child protection laws).

This guideline exists to prevent these risks, uphold ethical standards, and ensure HP activities are inclusive, respectful, and safe for all minors involved.

# Steps

# One and Two

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## Work in small groups of minors with an adult.

Working in groups is necessary for all people performing HP activities, especially for minors that are under 18 years old. In groups, members can work together to prevent or deal with accidents (e.g., disorientation). If the team is large enough, working in medium-sized groups is preferred.

## Ensure the environment of the HP is a safe space.

Unsafe physical environments risk physical injury, while emotionally unsafe spaces cause emotional harm. While choosing a safe activity space (e.g., a well-known mall or street to perform promotional activities), dangers can be effectively prevented, and minors can refer to trusted adults in the environment when help is needed.

# Steps

# Three and Four

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## Contact senior advisors or adults if you encounter problems.

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Minors lack experience to resolve serious issues, delays in involving senior adults can worsen harm or violate legal obligations to report concerns about minor safety. There is a need to keep in contact with adults or senior advisors, to ensure safety for both minors and the audience.

## Set clear expectations and guidelines.

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Setting clear expectations for the minors allows them to follow the standards of the HP activity and subsequently prevent harm. When expectations are explicit, minors can confidently participate, advocate for themselves, and contribute to a safer environment.

# Steps Five and Six

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## Always provide adequate supervision.

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Unsupervised time is the top risk factor for minor harm in HP activities as it can cause disorientation and many more dangers. Adequate supervision is also a legal requirement in most jurisdictions for programs involving minors in community-focused activities.

## Implement confidentiality and privacy measures.

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When performing tasks in HP activities, minors may be in a situation revealing their personal information (either being forced or accidentally). Implementing privacy measures like storing minor data or educating proper responses can effectively help reduce fear and harm in these situations.

# Steps Seven and Eight

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## Offer training on safe practices.

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Lacking experience on HP and safety, minors need training on how to perform community-based activities. Training allows them to recognize risks and act, reducing their vulnerability during HP activities.

## Encourage open communication.

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When performing activities, minors may not meet the standards for the HP. Therefore, encouraging open communication can help increase the efficiency of the activity, adding to the overall impact of the activity.

# Steps Nine and Ten

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## Have emergency procedures in place.

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Emergencies (e.g., medical crises, severe weather, external party acting threateningly) are rare but high-stake. Without a plan, panic can lead to delayed help which can endanger minors' health or safety.

## Regularly review and improve safety measures.

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HP activities involve larger community engagement events, which can evolve and risk change over time. Regularly reviewing and improving safety measures can prevent minors being exposed to harm from unforeseen risks.



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