

# **YOUTH MEMBER INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES**

TOWN OF HARDWICK – YOUTH CENTER, P.O. BOX 575, GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031 TEL. 413-477-8207  
(Upstairs from the Senior Center)

## **Hardwick Youth Center Open Hours**

Call 413-477-8207 and listen to the message on the answering machine for the most current activity information. All HYC open hours are for members only, unless otherwise specified. Attendance may be posted as limited by the age groups categorized in Membership Guidelines. One Event supervisor is on staff at all HYC events. This role is exclusive to Youth Commission approved personnel or a designated Youth Commission member. Other adult staff persons may also work in conjunction with the Event Supervisor.

## **Open Hours are when members can drop in at the HYC**

We are open on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 2:30 - 5:30 P.M. We designate the first half hour to homework, as it's most important. We also have arts and crafts, board games, Rock band, outside sports and planned activities.

## **Membership Guidelines**

Children with a parent/guardian, who is a resident of the town of Hardwick (Gilbertville, Hardwick, Old Furnace or Wheelwright), can enroll for FREE youth center membership. HYC events are open to all members, unless otherwise posted. Membership is consistently earned with appropriate behavior. Behavior that is not in accordance with the HYC Rules of Conduct will result in loss of membership as defined in the HYC Rules of Conduct.

- Youth Members are persons 10 through 14 years old

## **Contract and Membership Privileges**

Each member is assigned a free photo-ID card that is kept at the Hardwick Youth Center.

Members must enter into a contract with a parent/guardian and the HYC to receive membership privileges. Privileges include but are not limited to:

- Attendance at HYC events within membership and posted guidelines.
- Ability to sign in one non-member guest for designated HYC events.
- Attendance at HYC special events within membership and posted guidelines.

## **Member and Parent/Guardian Responsibilities**

Adherence to the HYC Rules of Conduct is mandatory. Violators will be disciplined as generally outlines in the Disciplinary Action section below and as specifically outlined in the HYC Rules of Conduct. Members left at an HYC event without a ride home 15 minutes after closing may be returned safely home by a staff member or police officer. A second occurrence will result in review of membership status.

## **Disciplinary Action**

The following disciplinary measures will be used as reprimand (though not exclusively) for not abiding by the HYC Rules of Conduct, and whenever deemed necessary and appropriate by HYC authorized staff:

- Warning-verbal notice requiring immediate behavior improvement. (From any staff person)
- Restriction-temporarily denied access to a privilege or activity. (Activity Leader or Event Supervisor)
- Escort-contact Parent/Guardian or Police Department for removal from event. (Event Supervisor)
- Suspension-event access denial for a set period of time. (Youth Center personnel & Youth Commission)
- Loss of Membership-permanent loss of member privileges. (Youth Commission)

The Hardwick Youth Center has unanimously adopted a "0 Tolerance" policy for any illegal activity, including the possession of any substance and/or the probability of being under the influence of any substance which is controlled in any manner. A report of such incidents or items may be checked by authorized staff, parent(s), guardian(s), or help at the particular function involved, and the Police will be notified of such.

This policy clearly outlines our obligation to a safe center and is posted to inform our members and their guests that they may be subject to search for items which may fall under the categories of alcohol, drugs, firearms, and/or contraband. Protection of the Fourth Amendment, regarding searches, is limited to the actions of the State and its Agents. The Hardwick Youth Center Staff, who are not acting under the direction of the Police, are therefore not subject to the Fourth Amendment restrictions. The Fourth Amendment applies to a private party's actions only if, in light of all the circumstances the Government has participated in or instigated the Search.