

Staying Safe During the Summer: Recommendations for Volunteer Host Families

the *Fresh Air* fund
serving children since 1877

We want you and your Fresh Air Fund child to have a wonderful time together. To ensure that his or her stay is as safe as possible, there are a number of recommendations that we ask Volunteer Host Families to follow. If you have any questions at all about safety, please don't hesitate to call your Chairperson.

Water Safety

Every kid loves the water!

However, a lot of inner-city children haven't had the opportunity to learn how to swim... even those that may claim they can. So please supervise all swimming activities until you feel secure that your guest is a good swimmer and understands the rules of water safety. Regardless of your guests swimming ability, adult supervision is always advisable. Please ensure that your guest is with an adult and wears a life jacket when in a boat or enjoying water sports.

Discipline

For the safety of all Fresh Air Fund children, we prohibit any corporal punishment.

If you are having a serious issue with your guest, please call your Chairperson or Fund Representative and we'll respond immediately.

Trampolines

Sorry, no jumping on trampolines in Friendly Towns!

Motorized Vehicles

Again, this is an area in which inner-city children may lack experience. In most cases, they have not had access to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), boats, or jet skis. And although they will most certainly want to try them out, it simply is not in their best interest.

Please do not allow Fresh Air Fund children to operate lawn mowers, tractors, ATVs, boats, jet skis, dirt bikes, or automobiles.

Bicycles, Scooters and Skateboards

Who doesn't want to ride a bike during the summer? But before you go riding, check your Fresh Air child's skills. If they've never ridden a bike, scooter, or skateboard and you want to teach them, go right ahead. Just make sure that children always wear a helmet when enjoying these activities.

In some states, children under 12 must wear helmets when riding bicycles — it's the law.

Firearms

Fresh Air children are never allowed to handle firearms, even for sport. Please store unloaded guns in locked cabinets, and keep ammunition locked away in a separate place during the child's visit.

Full-Time Caregivers and Babysitters

Please remember that any full-time caregiver must be 18 years old and will need to be interviewed by local volunteers as well as background checked. Babysitters should be mature enough to provide quality supervision to Fresh Air children and must also be at least 18 years old and background checked.

Overnight Visits

If your Fresh Air child will be staying the night away from your home, please notify the local volunteer leader and provide him or her with contact information. A Fresh Air Fund staff member must approve any trip that takes place outside of areas managed by The Fund.

Emergencies

In an emergency, please call your Chairperson immediately. If you cannot reach your chairperson, call The Fresh Air Fund at (800) 367-0003. New York City staff members are available to help you 24 hours a day during your child's visit.



www.freshair.org

1-800-367-0003