



SCIENCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

University Policy: Guidelines for Mentoring a Minor in the Laboratory

The University policy on Minors in the Workplace prohibits individuals under 18 years of age from being in “wet” laboratories unless they are participating in a University-sponsored event or volunteer program, such as the Science Outreach Program.

Choosing to mentor a minor in a laboratory carries with it the responsibility for close supervision of the minor and strict adherence to University and legal restrictions on the types of activities that the minor may perform. Please note that, due to employment and immigration regulations, the intent and practice of sponsoring a volunteer (a minor or otherwise) in a laboratory must be to provide the individual with an educational experience. Volunteers may not be engaged in work that would otherwise be performed by a paid employee.

The following list is designed to aid you in making your decision to mentor a minor and to guide you in that role:

- Absolutely **no one under 16 years of age** is allowed to work or volunteer in the laboratories.
- Minors who wish to volunteer in a laboratory on campus must either apply for the Summer Science Research Program (SSRP), or file specific non-SSRP volunteer paperwork for minors with the Science Outreach Office.
- Minors must complete appropriate safety training with LS&EH prior to commencing work in the laboratory. The safety training is arranged by contacting Elsie Calo in LS&EH (ecalocalo@rockefeller.edu).
- Only employees and post-doctoral researchers of The Rockefeller University, HHMI or the Population Council may act as mentors for minors. Adjunct professors, visiting fellows, graduate students, or other volunteers **may not act as a mentor**. For further clarification, please contact the Science Outreach office at x7431.
- Minors must register with and obtain an identification card from Security prior to commencing work in the laboratory. Note: All safety training must be completed before Security will issue an ID card to the minor. LS&EH will contact the minor's supervisor when the ID is authorized.
- Minors' work with hazardous materials should be minimized.
- **Minors may NOT perform any procedures involving radioactive materials or sources.** They may work in a lab room where radioactive materials are used or stored and they may watch radioactive materials procedures, **but they may NOT have any hands-on involvement.**
- Minors may not enter animal rooms in the CBC.
- Work with laboratory animals is at the discretion of the Associate Vice President of the CBC. As a general policy, it is not permitted. You must notify the AVP of CBC of your intent to include the minor on the animal protocol and receive written approval from CBC prior to bringing or sending any minor to CBC or CBC satellite areas for this purpose.
- Minors may not work on BL3 protocols.

Questions about the Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health program should be directed to Frank Schaefer, Director of Lab Safety and Environmental Health: schaefer@rockefeller.edu.