



SIERRA HARM REDUCTION COALITION VOLUNTEER OUTREACH GUIDELINES

Do Statements	Initials
Do develop real, compassionate and mutually beneficial relationships with participants.	
Do dress casually, comfortably and appropriately.	
Do treat participants equally. Do not develop friendships with consumers where you hang out outside of work. The rule is: someone who was already your friend before you became a volunteer who uses our services is OK to hang with, but anyone you met through SHRC is off-limits.	
Only do outreach with a trained partner during official, specified outreach or program site dates/times that are assigned to you by appropriate member. Always work in pairs, as having a partner to support and back you up is essential. Always remain in the line of sight of your partner and develop a plan in case you need to leave.	
Do act as a "watchdog"; you are entrusted to protect the safety and confidentiality of participants.	
Do recognize that your work can have a great impact in just a few hours a week.	
Do listen actively and non-judgmentally.	
Do enjoy your work enormously. Don't burn out!	
Do take credit for your work by filling out data sheets and keeping field notes.	
Do get support from fellow volunteers by attending weekly group meetings.	
Do stay informed of current resources applicable to both participants and volunteers.	



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Do NOT Statements	Initials
Do not flake on an outreach date, volunteer shift, or program.	
Do not carry weapons.	
Do not hold or take responsibility for anyone's belongings (drugs, money, clothes, bags, etc.)	
Do not engage in sexual relations or drug use with a participant.	
Do not accept or give, buy or sell, borrow or lend anything (gifts, money, etc.) to or from a participant.	
Do not sneak up on people. Ask people if you can approach and speak with them.	
Do not be visibly intoxicated while volunteering.	
Do not pressure anyone to accept information or materials that they do not want.	
Do not interfere with or get caught up in disputes between participants.	
Do not speak on behalf of Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition. Only when you are actively participating in an assigned program may you represent your actions as being part of your volunteer status. All school or other projects (written, photographed, or otherwise recorded) about Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition or participants must be approved in writing in advance by your program manager. All events must be approved by the SHRC board as the Board is responsible for scheduling community events and involvement.	
Do not divulge or use terms that reveal an individual's substance using status or sexual practices. Avoid terms such as: junkie, queer, "brother," fag, homo, dyke, or slang that identifies ethnicity, sexual orientation, or culture when addressing participants or when talking about them to other volunteers. These terms have culturally specific uses within a community but may be perceived as offensive when used by people outside of that community.	

I, _____ have read the following Do's and Don'ts of the Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition's volunteer program and agree to comply with these rules. If I should break any of these rules, I understand that my volunteer status will be terminated.

Signed _____ Date _____