

# RAINBOW GANG RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

## Welcome to The Rainbow Gang (RBG)!

The Rainbow Gang is a free program enriching the lives of those with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Our unique program offers a wide variety of recreational and leisure-based activities such as fitness, crafts, community field trips, and volunteer lead activities. An application process is in place to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of current and future participants.

Below are the expectations to be accepted into this program. If all the expectations below cannot be met, acceptance can't be permitted. Please review the frequently asked questions (FAQ's) regarding certain expectations for further clarity if this program would be a good fit for your participant(s).

### FAQ's

1. Participants must have finished or aged out of high school.
2. Participants must have a documented intellectual developmental disability.
3. Participants must independently manage toileting without reliance on diapers, pull-ups, or adult briefs.
4. Female participants must demonstrate the ability to independently manage menstrual hygiene, including the changing and proper disposal of sanitary products.
5. Participants must also be able to feed themselves.
6. Participants must be free of mobility impairments.
7. Participants must be able to have minimal behavioral outbursts.
8. We do not accept the use of aides or therapy animals.
9. Cell phones are not permitted. If a participant brings their cell phone it will remain silent in the RBG participants' mailbox in the office. If a participant needs to use their phone, they need to ask permission.
  - a. RBG staff members and volunteers are not held liable for any damage to or missing cell phones.
10. We do request money for some field trips. Please make sure money is turned in prior to the field trip.
11. Please ensure your participant is dressed appropriately for the weather.
12. Please wear tennis shoes or close-toed shoes only.
13. Must commit to full time; Mon-Fri 9am-2pm.

## Attendance

1. Unexcused Absences - Rainbow Gang members are allowed 25 days of unexcused absences per calendar year (January-December). For an absence to be excused, you must have a doctor's note for the participant, a death in the family, family vacation or camp.
  - a. Vacations/Camp must be submitted in writing 7 business days prior to departure.
    - i. If vacation/camp isn't submitted prior to departure absence will be counted as unexcused.
  - b. Failure to notify RBG staff prior to 9:30am day of absence will result in an unexcused absence unless a doctor's note can be provided.
  - c. If expectations are not met, RBG spot will be forfeited
2. Tardy Policy - If a participant arrives later than 9:30am he/she will be counted as tardy. If a participant leaves before 1:30pm or after 2:15pm without prior authorization he/she will be counted as tardy.
  - a. 3 tardies equal 1 unexcused absence
3. Leave of Absence - RBG members will be given up to 12 consecutive weeks for medical leave with a doctor's note.
  - a. If the RBG member can return, a review of the application with the participant's legal guardian/parents will be scheduled before the return of the RBG participant to review any changes.
  - b. If the RBG member can't return after 12 weeks, their spot will be forfeited.  
*\*Participant will be allowed to re-apply once cleared by the doctor*
4. Changes in Needs -
  - a. If a participant becomes unable to independently toilet or develops a reliance on diapers, pull-ups, or adult briefs (e.g., Depends).
  - b. Develops a need for an aid or therapy animal.
  - c. If a participant is no longer independently mobile with little to no assistance required.
  - d. If a participant develops a need, not listed above, that can no longer be met by the RBG staff.
  - A. When a change in need occurs:
    - a. A written notification to relinquish the participants' spot will be provided to the primary contact.
      - i. This must be signed and returned on the next business day.
    - b. Within 5 business days, RBG staff will meet with the participants parent/legal guardian, to discuss a transition plan outlining the time frame in which the participant will conclude their time at RBG.
      - i. If you choose not to attend the meeting or do not communicate back to RBG staff within the time frame listed, then the

participants spot and any time that could be afforded is forfeited immediately.

- c. Participants could be afforded up to a maximum of four consecutive weeks to secure alternative arrangements at the discretion of RBG staff.

5. Medicine- If a participant needs any type of medication while at RBG:

- a. Parents/legal guardians should notify RBG staff prior to medication being sent in with a participant.
  - i. All medications that are prescribed should be in an original medicine bottle that identifies who it is for, the name of the medicine, the dosage and prescribing doctor.
  - ii. Any medicine not prescribed, e.g. Midol etc. should be in an original bottle that states the medicine's name, dosage, and information-put this participants' Ziplock bag with the participants name and the date you are sending it in.
- b. Participants should immediately bring medication to RBG staff upon arrival.
- c. All medicines are kept in a lock box in the RBG office.
- d. If a participant is found with medication on them, the first offense is a write up the second offense is an automatic dismissal. *\*Participant will not be able to reapply*

6. Closures –

- a. Rainbow Gang follows the Anderson School District 5 and Anderson County Government Holiday/Closure schedules.
  - i. We will be closed for Spring Break, July 4<sup>th</sup> week, Thanksgiving, and Christmas/New Years.
  - ii. We will notify parents of any weather closures via Group Me, as we receive information from Anderson County Government.
  - iii. Any additional/unplanned/emergency closures we will notify parents via Group Me as soon as we know.
- b. Please refer to the most recent Holiday calendar that is received at the beginning of each year.

## **Arrival and pick up**

- 1. Program Hours - Rainbow Gang is held Monday through Friday from 9am to 2pm
  - a. Due to morning activities, participants are expected to arrive NO LATER than 9:15am
  - b. Our doors do not open until 8:45am.
  - c. Due to afternoon activities, participants are expected to be picked up NO LATER than 2:15pm, unless otherwise noted.

2. Transportation - If parents or legal guardians are unable to pick up their participant(s), Rainbow Gang staff must be notified prior to or by 12 pm on that day of the new arrangements.
  - a. Staff will not provide transportation to participants outside of programming activities. Transportation to and from Special Populations is an expectation for all participants. For liability purposes we cannot use Anderson County vehicles for personal needs.
  - c. If a participant is dropped off without a ride home three times, the participant will forfeit their spot. *\*Participant will not be able to reapply*
  - d. If a participant leaves before 1:30pm or after 2:15pm without prior authorization he/she will be counted as tardy.
    - i. 3 tardies equal 1 unexcused absence.

## **Behavior**

1. Must have respect for RBG property.
2. Must have respect for property, rights, space and feelings of others.
3. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated (includes but isn't limited to hitting, spitting, throwing, threatening, kicking, direct defiance, lying and talking back etc.)
4. Must not show any kind of sexual aggression towards RBG participants, staff and volunteers.
5. Must not demonstrate violent and/or aggressive behavior toward participants, staff and volunteers
6. Participants are not allowed to leave the building without staff or parent/legal guardian supervision.
  - a. If Participant chooses to leave, then he/she will forfeit their spot, effective immediately. *\*Participant will not be able to reapply*
7. Special Population Recreation "The Rainbow Gang" Staff reserves the right to determine other behaviors not listed above as non-compliant.

## **Consequences** (unless otherwise stated above)

1. When rules are not followed by participants, there will be 3 verbal warnings of infraction.
2. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> verbal warning there will be a referral/write up given and parents will be notified.
  - a. Parents/Legal Guardian will need to sign a referral/write up and return before participants can return to RBG.
  - b. Students with 3 write ups within 1 calendar year (Jan-Dec) will forfeit their spot in RBG. *\*Participant will not be allowed to reapply.*

## **RBG Rules for Fun**

1. Participants are expected to participate in activities provided.
2. Listen and obey RBG staff, volunteers and any other adults in the building.
3. Tell staff if you have an issue. Do not handle them yourself.
4. Come prepared with lunch and a drink and any other items needed.
5. Always wash your hands after restroom use and before meals.
6. Use your manners and kind words; foul language will not be tolerated.
7. Help one another.
8. Always share (because sharing is caring).
9. Be respectful to others.
10. No hitting, throwing objects or inappropriate touching.
11. Demonstrate proper behavior.
12. Have FUN!

## **New Rainbow Gang Members**

1. Fill out an application for Special Population Recreation “The Rainbow Gang”. Applications can be found on our website; [www.andersouncountysc.org](http://www.andersouncountysc.org) or call the office 864-260-4142 Mon-Fri 9am-2pm.
2. Parents/Legal Guardians will be notified by RBG staff to schedule a tour with an opportunity to meet family, potential participant and staff. RBG staff will then notify parents/legal guardians of acceptance via phone call. We will allow 5 business days for notification of acceptance of candidates’ spot.
3. The candidate will then be allotted a one-month (30 consecutive days of attendance) evaluation period to adapt to our program. A meeting with parents/legal guardians may be requested at the end of the 30-day period for review. During the evaluation period only, excused absences will be allowed, any other missed days will cause candidate to forfeit their spot. Individuals, who fail to meet the expectations of our program, will meet with parents and staff for release. Release is at the staff’s discretion.

# Rainbow Gang Rules and Expectations Agreement

**Please read, sign, date and return:**

I have fully read the rules and regulations for The Rainbow Gang. I understand the listed rules and regulations. I understand that if my participant doesn't follow these rules, he/she will forfeit their spot. Depending on the infraction(s) my child/participant may forfeit their chance to reapply.

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Even if your participant can sign for themselves, we ask that a parent or legal guardian sign this form)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_