

# Safety Town – Santa Clarita

## FAQs for Children and Youth Volunteers

### ***How do I know if my child is ready for Safety Town camp?***

To be eligible to attend, children must turn 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2020 (no exceptions) and be enrolled in kindergarten or first grade in the fall. Please give careful consideration when determining the readiness of your child to attend the Safety Town program. This positive, least distracting, learning environment is fast-paced, and transitions occur every half hour (transitioning from one activity to another occurs about 10 times daily). It is very important that your child be emotionally and socially capable and willing to participate. Children should be able to separate from parents, in addition to being able and to independently take care of their personal toilet needs.

### ***Can my child repeat the camp?***

No, we do not accept repeaters. Our goal is to provide students in the SCV with an opportunity to participate in Safety Town.

### ***What is your Disciplinary Policy?***

To help ensure that each camper has a fun and safe Safety Town camp, the following rules have been established:

1. Be safe
2. Follow the lead and direction of all Safety Town staff members and counselors
3. Use appropriate language
4. Be respectful to staff, counselors and peers

For the protection and well-being of all participants, children must be able to follow simple instructions. Inappropriate behavior and/or negative language and attitude may be grounds for dismissal from the program. A warning will first be issued, followed by removal from activity if negative behavior persists. Dependent upon the nature of the behavior, parents will be notified to discuss appropriate measures and possible dismissal of their child from Safety Town. The Safety Town staff and Santa Clarita Optimist Foundation reserve the right to make appropriate adjustments and/or dismiss any child or youth volunteer student for behavior that poses a safety risk to themselves or others.

### ***Will the Safety Town Staff administer medications to my child?***

No, there is no nurse or medical staff on duty. Staff cannot administer medications, including asthma inhalers, epilepsy medication, etc. If your child has a medical condition, (1) request a *Safety Town Medical Waiver* from the Safety Town Director, (2) have your child's physician complete the form, and (3) mail the original form (not a copy, photo or email attachment) to the Director. The completed form **must be received no later than July 6, 2020** to this address:

Santa Clarita Optimist Foundation - Safety Town  
23890 Copper Hill Drive, Ste. #249  
Valencia, CA 91354

### ***What if my child has an IEP or needs other support services?***

The parent or guardian must provide a copy of their child's IEP with this application for review by Safety Town's Director/Asst. Director. A conference call may be scheduled with the parent/guardian to discuss the IEP.

### ***Parent/Guardian and Staff Communication.***

We strongly encourage parent communication and cooperation with the staff. Good communication with each parent helps the staff relate to the children most effectively.

***Can I use my credit card or PayPal to pay for my child's registration to camp?***

We prefer to receive payment in the form of a check. Please note that if a check is returned unpaid – the parent/guardian shall pay for the penalty incurred to the Santa Clarita Optimist Foundation's checking account. To pay by credit card please contact the Director for instructions to complete the transaction (call Susan Russell at 661-306-4414 or email [susan@santaclaritaoptimistfoundation.org](mailto:susan@santaclaritaoptimistfoundation.org)). The processing fee charged by PayPal for credit or debit card use will be added to the application fee (\$4.65 + \$150 = \$154.65).

***How old do I need to be to apply to become a Counselor -In-Training (CIT) youth volunteer?***

Volunteer applicants must be entering 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade (13 – 17 years of age) and eligible for community service hours. The individual must be mature, responsible, dedicated and enthusiastic for working with young children. The Director reserves the right to dismiss volunteers due to immaturity, inappropriateness, and/or noncompliance to rules (e.g., overt/covert behavior, dress, and/or inattentiveness to assisting children or co-workers).

***When and how do I apply to be a Counselor-In-Training?***

Applications can be downloaded from [www.safetytownscv.com](http://www.safetytownscv.com). Completed applications must be mailed to the address listed on the form, and positions are filled according to qualifications, experience and age to ensure balance of groupings.

***If I have served as a CIT at previous camps, do I need to attend the orientation on Friday, July 10 at 10:00 AM?***

**YES**. This is a mandatory training for All volunteers; there are no exceptions.

***I sent in my application before the deadline but was not given a volunteer position. Why?***

We have limited positions available. You must apply early to have a better chance of receiving a volunteer spot. Also, Safety Town – Santa Clarita reserves the right to deny an application based on prior noncompliance and/or negative behavior, as outlined in the volunteer agreement.

***What if I can only work part-time during the week of Safety Town?***

As a CIT you commit to work every day during operating hours of Safety Town. This includes arriving on Monday at 8:00 AM, and by 8:30 AM Tuesday - Friday, participating in pre- and post-camp session briefings, and assisting with clean-up. CITs usually leave the camp between 1:10 PM on Monday – Thursday, and 1:30 ~ 1:45 PM on Friday.

***How do I earn community service hours?***

If you have graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or above, you must bring a community service form from your school to the CIT Coordinator where you will perform your volunteer service. At the end of your service, the CIT Coordinator will return the form to you with the amount of completed hours and an authorized signature. It is your responsibility to bring the completed form to your school office for credit. Note, if you do not have a school form, or you have not graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the CIT coordinator will complete a school-compliant form and give to you as you leave on Friday, July 17.

***What do CITs need to bring to Safety Town?***

An enthusiastic attitude, a willingness to help, guide, teach young children, model safe and healthy behaviors, and accept responsibility for following Safety Town rules and ethics.

***Is there a Scholarship for CITs who have worked at Safety Town?***

CITs are encouraged to participate in each session of camp each year, as eligibility permits. Annually, the Santa Clarita Optimist Foundation awards a scholarship to one CIT who is a graduating high school senior and has successfully completed at least 4 Safety Town camps.