

YOUTH RED CROSS
INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY DISTRICT BRANCH, ERNAKULAM

Guide lines for Youth and Junior Red Cross

Prof(Dr) S.P Agarwal,Secretary General Indian Red Cross Society, National HQ, New Delhi has formulated guide lines for Youth and Junior Red Cross which also took guidance from the guide lines issued by IFRC and IFRC Youth policy and guide lines of partner National Societies. Guide lines are intended for National Head Quarters, State Branches, Dist Branches, Schools/Colleges and Universities. The following are the guidelines for the formation and administration of YRC/JRC at Dist and school and college levels.Certain modifications have be made so as to suit the function according to our situation/circumstance

1 Introduction

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) was established in 1920 under the Indian Red Cross Society Act and incorporated under the Parliament Act XV of 1920 (as Amended by Act No. 22 of 1956 and the Adaptation of Laws (No 4) order of 1957 and the Act. No. 14 of 1992). It is a member of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and is recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, namely: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, and Universality the Indian Red Cross Society acts as an auxiliary to the state in the carrying out of humanitarian activities. It also provides a range of services, including disaster relief, health and social welfare programmes in the country. During wartime, the society works as auxiliary to the armed forces medical services and also assists the affected civilian as per the Geneva Conventions.

2. Mission –Indian Red Cross Society

The Indian Red Cross Society aims to inspire, encourage and initiate at all times, all forms of humanitarian activities so that human suffering can be minimized, alleviated and even prevented, thus contribute to creating a more congenial climate for peace.

3 Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect

for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all people.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary Service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

4. Junior/Youth Red Cross – History

The involvement and contribution of young people to the work of the Red Cross has an interesting history. This genesis of their engagement originated in the province of Quebec, Canada in 1914, when school children first participated in the humanitarian work of the Red Cross work by making bandages, dressings and other comforts for soldiers. The idea soon spread to other Canadian provinces. By 1915, this idea had spread to Europe while in the United States, eleven million school children were engaged in similar activities.

During World War I, several countries encouraged young people to assist in Red Cross work. By 1918, formal youth sections were organized in Australia, Canada, Italy and the United States.

The creation of League of Red Cross (now International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) in 1919 increased the emphasis on peacetime activities of the Red Cross through the establishment of a coordinating body for National Societies, which to a great extent helped in the expansion of youth programs throughout the world.

By 1921, youth sections had been created in a further eight countries: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, New Zealand, Poland, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. The following year France, Japan, Romania and Sweden also established similar youth sections, bringing the total to at least 16 countries.

In 1922, the youth programme of the Red Cross was officially recognized and supported by Resolution No. XVIII adopted by the General Council of League of Red Cross Societies.

Expansion of Red Cross youth programmes to young people outside the schools or other than those attending educational institution were embodied in one of the General Councils resolutions XIX.

By 1935, 51 countries had sections focused on young people, with total membership of 15 million with a 3 point programme bringing the motto "I serve".

Today, about 100 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have sections dedicated to engaging young people and statistics show that as much as half of all Red Cross & Red Crescent volunteers in the world are young people.

The Indian Red Cross Society first engaged young people in its work in 1925, with the first unit being set up in Punjab in 1926, soon followed by similar units in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai, and Uttar Pradesh.

According to the International Labor Organization report, about 40 percent of the Indian total population is in the age group of 13-35 years. The Red Cross, through its junior and youth programmes, plays an important role in channeling and guiding this young energy in the cause of humanitarian action.

Where active, junior and youth Red Cross groups offer branches a formidable strength both in times of emergency and times of preparedness. Ample opportunity must be given to young people for them to feel empowered to take humanitarian action, offering their strengths, energy ideas and innovation to our Movement and to their communities.

5. Valuing the role of young people

Junior and youth Red Cross programmes are an integral part of the strategic approach taken by the Indian Red Cross Society. We value the diverse and important roles that young people perform as innovators, inter-cultural ambassadors, peer educators, community mobilisers, and most importantly, agents of behavioral change and advocates for vulnerable people.

When working alongside older generations in a spirit of mutual respect, young people bring much needed ideas and skills. The promotion of knowledge transfer and growth, combined with the personal guidance that older, more experienced volunteers of the Red Cross can offer, is seen as a key approach to developing tomorrow's generation of leaders, today.

Our junior and youth programmes help the Indian Red Cross Society to implement the Fundamental Principles of our Movement through:

International Humanitarian Law

The protection of health and life
Community service
Promotion of national and international friendship and under
Standing by using the international links of the Movement

6 Who can join the junior and youth Red Cross?

In the context of the Indian Red Cross Society, the terms “junior” and “youth” include those aged between 5 and 30 years old. Students up to 12 standard or below 18 years of age may join the Junior Red Cross. Students in colleges and those aged 18 to 30 years of age may join the Youth Red Cross.

7. Red Cross Junior/ Youth Member

Any junior/youth who is a student in school or college/ university and has paid the annual membership fees/ or been excused by legislation, towards Junior/Youth Red Cross. A JRC/YRC member may become a volunteer at the same time but a volunteer cannot become a member.

8. Junior & Youth Red Cross Groups

A group of JRC/YRC volunteers formed in the school and colleges comprising minimum 20 students in one group, and not exceeding 50 students who should be zealous and talented but primarily committed to the service of the needy and the distress.

9 Formation procedure at District Branches

A Dist. Junior and Youth Red Cross sub committees may be formed as follows

1. Dy. Director of Education/Dy Director of Collegiate Education
(Chairman of the concerned unit)
2. Working Chairman
3. Hon. Secetary
4. Joint Secretary (He will also be the coordinator at Dist. Level)

Members

- 1 Dist. Medical officer or his nominee
- 2 Two members of the teaching staff from colleges and two from schools
(Rotation for 2 academic years)
- 3 Two college students (One male and one female) and Two school students
(One male and one female) Rotation for one academic year
- 4 One member from the Managing committee
- 5 Two other members

The committee shall be appointed by the President of the Dist. branch

10 The functions of the district sub-committee will be as follows:-

To promote junior and youth Red Cross activities and to support
And facilitate the formation of junior/youth groups.

To examine requests from schools or colleges for membership in the junior/youth Red Cross and to see that the regulations of the groups and their program of activities are in agreement with the rules and program of activities of the Indian Red Cross Society.

To guide and encourage the activities of groups through inspections, etc.

To carry out recommendation made by national headquarters, the state branch or by the district branch concerning junior and youth programs.

To appoint coordinator focused on youth and junior programs when necessary to work under the committee.

To make necessary recommendations to IRCS state-level junior and youth subcommittee(s) regarding youth development programs.

Monitor and support the IRCS Junior/Youth groups and on the basis of evaluation recommend to the IRCS State Junior/Youth Red Cross Sub Committee to award outstanding groups.

To submit the report of the activities done under the committee to State Junior/Youth subcommittee on regular basis.

To conduct appropriate training, workshops, seminars, exhibitions etc at district level including first aid training.

Dispatch information received from the National or State Branch to the respective junior/youth groups and similarly sends off the reports and other information received from the junior/youth groups to the national headquarters and state branch.

Develop and make available the IEC material to the IRCS junior/youth groups.

To encourage IRCS junior/youth groups conduct fund raising and volunteer program, get information about the financial situation of each groups and if necessary provide financial assistance to weak groups.

To encourage IRCS junior/youth groups to prepare annual calendar of events/ activities and function accordingly.

To prepare an annual report or activities and membership statistics of the Junior/youth Red Cross for submission to the state branch.

The meeting of the district junior and youth sub-committee will be held on monthly basis. The secretary will call the meeting of the committee as per the direction of the chairperson or working chairman or with his/her consent on a fixed date and venue with agenda as and when necessary. The required quorum for the meeting will be the presence of the secretary and one-third members of the committee.

11 Junior/Youth Red Cross groups

The Youth Red Cross is a group activity organized within a college and the teacher is the recognized leader and called program officer of the group. Indian Red Cross Society youth groups should be established at colleges, universities and community levels targeting age group 18-30 years.

The Junior Red Cross is a group activity organized within the school and the teacher is the recognized leader and called counsellor of the group. Indian Red Cross Junior groups shall be established targeting age group 14-17 year students studying at schools.

12 Group formation in schools and colleges

A school/college which would like to establish a Junior Red Cross group must obtain an application form from the district branch. The form when completed should be forwarded to District branch by the counsellor/program officer in district with the approval of HM/Principal. The registration fee should be forwarded at the same time.

Pupils who wish to become members of the junior/youth groups should have their names entered on the membership roll and shall pledge themselves to carry out the fourfold program of personal health, service to others, international friendliness and dissemination of Red Cross. They are then entitled to wear a membership button and to take part in the activities of the group.

13. School counsellors

A suitable teacher should be nominated to act as counsellor to the junior Red Cross school group and his/her name should be entered on the application form for membership. Under the counsellor's guidance, the children should be encouraged to manage the affairs of their group themselves.

14. Program officer

A lecturer/reader other than the lecturer in the charge of NCC/NSS who is enthusiastic and committed to the service of the needy should be appointed as the youth Red Cross program officer of the college. Preference should be given to those lecturers who have received program officers training, training in first aid, disaster management, road safety, hygiene etc., or have organized blood donation and leadership camps.

15 Composition of a group

A group can be established with 20 members. Each group will identify a peer educator. There can be several such groups within an institution. One program officer/counsellor for four such groups to be identified.

The program officer or counsellor of the group will administer the pledge to the members of the groups:

“I, [SAY NAME], a member of the Indian Junior/Youth Red Cross, pledge to serve in the promotion of health, the relief of Suffering, and in the building a culture of peace without any Form of discrimination, and to hold in friendship the boys and Girls of all nations. I also pledge to uphold the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross; humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, unity, universality, voluntary service.”

The president of the group will be the principal of the institution or his nominee.

The groups formed will carry out the activities of the Red Cross as per the principles of the Movement. The programs given by the district branch will be carried out by the group. The president will nominate a member on an annual basis for awards and international/national and state level activities.

Each group will select its own activities according to its own capacity and local needs.

The promotion of health.

Health activities, HIV and AIDS campaigns, accident prevention and first aid.

Service to the community.

Community based social welfare activities, environmental activities disaster preparedness program.

Informing Youth members and others the role and the responsibilities of the Red Cross and encourage them to contribute.

Dissemination of information about the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its Fundamental Principles, four Geneva Conventions, and emblem awareness use and the promotion of understanding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

16 Role and responsibilities of school/college body

Enrolment register of volunteers,

Membership fund management and remittance as per orders,

Income & expenditure register,

Stock register,

Attendance register for volunteers,

Register of project activity reports,

Blood donor's directory,

Conduct community reach program and maintain expenditure,

17 Endorsement by state education authority

Junior/Youth Red Cross groups should be formed in schools or colleges with the support and endorsement of the Director of Education/Directorate of Higher/Technical Education. Although a compulsory order is not deemed necessary, approaching the

directorates ensure that a working relationship is established and understanding of the role of the Red Cross in education institutions is clear

18 District Junior/ Youth Red Cross

In case of districts, District Red Cross Branches should appoint district Junior/youth Red Cross organizers from amongst the district officers of the Education and Public Health Departments or suitable non-officials to carry on junior/youth Red Cross work and activities.

The state junior/youth Red Cross sub-committees may themselves appoint Junior Red Cross organizers for districts, which have no active Red Cross Branches. To organize good working groups it is necessary to have the active support and cooperation of district officers of Education, Vice Chancellor of university and Public Health Departments. When a large number of groups organized in a district, a District Junior/youth Red Cross Sub-committee may be appointed as laid down in rules.

19. Recognition of services of counsellors and program officers -The services of teachers who have organized Junior/youth Red Cross groups and acted as counsellors/program officers to the satisfaction of the District branch will be recognized by:

Award of a certificate by the state branch/district branch after two years of service;

Award of the badge by headquarters after five years' service;

Award of a printed note of thanks certificate after ten years' service.

Applications for the award of the badge should be submitted to national headquarters through the state junior/youth Red Cross coordinator, the cost of two-year service certificates will be borne by state branches and those of badges and the note of thanks certificate by national headquarters.

20. Recognition to Junior/Youth Red Cross members

Issue certificate along with award to best voluntary service by the youth volunteer "Junior/Youth Red Crosser award" by state branch.

Certificates of participation.

Medals of honor for health activities/disaster management/fire drills.

The cost of certificates and medals will be borne by the state branch.

21 Communications between State Headquarters and Dist. Branch

Official matters will pass through the Dist. Secretary/Chairman and all other technical correspondences may be dealt with direct between state and district with the consent of Dist. Secretary/Chairman

Teacher's conferences regular conferences between teachers acting as counselors of Junior Red Cross and program officer in colleges should be arranged by Dist. Branch and close co-operation should be maintained between Junior/Youth and other general activities

22 Camps/Seminars

Inter schools/college camps/seminars should be arranged by the Dist. Branches

23. Finances

There shall be no separate bank account for junior/youth funds, nor shall a separate treasurer be appointed. A separate junior/youth Red Cross budget should however, be drawn up in the accounts of the Indian Red Cross Society and its district branch

The district share (or in case there are no district committees, the state share) of all Junior and youth Red Cross subscriptions must be spent on junior/youth activities. No funds can be diverted to other purposes.

The funds with the district branch are to be shared as per the guidelines of the state education department. /State Branch

24. Membership fees etc

Annual membership fees for the institution will be decided by the State branch/National Headquarters. The District Branch should retain 70% of the institution membership fee 15% shall be sent to state branch and 15% to National Headquarters

25 Dist. Level camps/Seminars

- a) To organize Dist. Level camps/seminars for YRC/JRC and program officers and counselors
- b) Organize street plays on issues such as HIV, hygiene and sanitation as well as drills and demonstrations on first aid, firefighting and rescue or disaster operations.
- c) Organize competition/campaigns for JRC/YRC
- d) Hold a session on orientation of Red Cross session should include history of the movements, what it means to be a part of Red Cross and provided an opportunity for members to ask questions and assist in generating enthusiasm
- e) Observation of important days

26. School and college level

- a. Organize games/mock drills /exhibitions/lectures/demonstration
On health & hygiene, disaster (manmade, natural), road safety, Climate change) in school it can be supplement to the Curriculum.
- b. Organize health camps (the CDMO and doctors in the locality Should be consulted in this regard).
- c. Organize cultural programs.
- d. Observation of important days.
- e. Facilitate junior or youth volunteers to carry out community Outreach activities.
- f. Organize demonstration of fire fighting in consultation with the Fire station closest to the school or college.
- g. Help develop a disaster plan for the classroom or school/college.
- h. Nomination of delegates for and organize inter-state and International programs such as camps/workshops/seminars.
- l. Take emergency relief measures to the victims of natural disaster

Such as flood, fire, drought, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic, Manmade disaster such as accidents etc. Within reach of the School/college on priority basis with available funds and intimate The local authorities about it immediately and district HQ soon. Such operations must be conducted under the direct supervision Of the JRC/YRC counsellor/program officer.

- j. Visit anganbadi, orphanage and school for the blind, institutions for The physically handicapped with gifts.
- k. Help the Junior/Youth for fund raising activities for Red Cross.
- l. Organize short duration (one day, two day) special service Programs/camps during local fairs and festivals.
 - m. Make their own short term projects for the community such as:
 - i. Literacy campaign
 - ii. Health & Hygiene
 - iii. Stigma & discrimination
- n. Issue certificates along with award to the best students who Actively participate in the Red Cross Activities (Yearly) school And college level;

27 Junior/Youth Red Cross Members

- a. Distribute Red Cross information at school and local community events.
- b. Write stories about your activities in your school or community Newspaper.
- c. Host a blood drive at your school/college and recruit donors, arrange appointments act as an escort, and serve refreshments.
- d. Learn about the disasters that could occur in our community.
- e. Promote disaster preparedness to other students and your Community by creating flyers, posters, or putting on plays, Puppet shows.
 - f. Display Red Cross activities and materials on a bulletin board or In a display case at your school/college.
 - g. Donate two hours each month for the Red Cross activities such As:
 - i. Awareness on road safety
 - ii. Climate change
 - iii. Awareness on HIV and AIDS
 - iv. Be safe program (Hand washing)

28. Subject to be dealt with in the camps/Seminars

1. History of Red Cross, Principles of Red Cross
2. Understanding Youth leadership
3. Youth as agents of behavioral change
- 4 Voluntary development

5. Disaster Terminologies
6. Health and care, Blood HIV Aids, First Aid
- 7 First Aid practical works eg. Bandages of burn, Bleeding Fracture
Transportation
- 8 Climatic change
- 9 Firefighting/Rescue
- 10 Sports activities
- 11 Cultural program
- 12 Field exercise First Aid etc.

Chairman
Indian Red Cross Society
Ernakulum District Branch

**YOUTH RED CROSS
INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY DISTRICT BRANCH, ERNAKULAM**

APPLICATION FOR COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP

From

The Principal

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.....PIN CODE.....

Office Phone No.....

To

The Chairman

Indian Red Cross Society

General Hospital Campus

Ernakulam, Kochi – 11

Dear Sir,

We wish to form a Youth Red Cross Group in our College and expect to have approximately:-

.....Boys

..... Girls

Our Programme Officer's name & Phone No.....

Mobile No.....

We enclose Rs 400/-cash to cover the annual membership fee for the year.....Please register our name and send us the Official Receipt at the earliest.

Yours faithfully

Date.....

Principal

(For Office Use)

1. Receipt No &Date.....Amount.....

