

Job Description: First Day Children's Program Committee

Purpose:

In our First Day Children's Program we seek to provide a welcoming, safe environment, one in which children/youth may experience respect and love for themselves and others within a loving Quaker community. When we gather on First Days we join in a circle of quiet worship, and then continue exploring Quaker values through hearing & discussing stories, sharing experiences, and utilizing visual arts, writing, singing or movement activities, as are age-appropriate. The unique needs, expression & understanding of each of the children present contribute to the activities chosen. We encourage the children to reach beyond the labeling of a structured religion and provide a program that offers them ways to explore the meaning and expression of life. Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality/Equity and Stewardship are often catalysts for thoughtful reflection & new insights in this shared journey. For us it's important to consider issues of diversity and racism and to be open to talking about these with children. Our gathering may be held either in person or virtually, when needed.

Term length:

Members serve two-year terms beginning June 1 through May 31. Member's terms overlap to support continuity for the children and the committee.

Number of members:

5 minimum, 6 preferable. Flexible, to meet current staffing needs for the Children's Program each First Day.

Membership requirements:

Committee members must have been regularly attending the Meeting for Worship at Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting for at least 6 months. Members need to be willing and able to work cooperatively with other adults and teens, to attend with a loving, caring manner to children, youth and adults and to observe appropriate, respectful boundaries with all.

Desirable qualifications:

It is very helpful to have had experience working with children/youth at a Quaker Meeting or other religious group, a school, day care, camp or as a parent.

Responsibilities:

* Committee members must be familiar with the FDCP job description, the FDCP committee handbook and the Meeting's Child Safety Policy, and support their implementation. This process will include some orientation, which will be provided by a committee member. Each committee member will serve regularly as the lead or 2nd adult facilitating the Children's Program on First Days, in coordination with others.

* Read and respond to the Advices & Queries, as directed by the Worship & Ministry Committee annually, and present a response to the Meeting for Business.

* Attend committee meetings, usually held monthly.

Note: Refer to the FDCP committee handbook and the Meeting's Child Safety Policy (reviewed annually) for additional specific information.

Approved: October 11, 2020