



## 5. FORMATION OF CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

A SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL NORMS FOR THE  
CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION &  
THE FORMATION OF CANDIDATES (2013)

THE DIOCESE *of* RALEIGH  
OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

DATE: **8 OCT. 2024**

**This summary outlines the principal expectations.**

Each pastor has the authority and discretion to implement the General Norms.

[Diocesan \\*Safe Environment Policy](#) must be adhered to in ministry among youth.

**CHIEF AMONG THE ELEMENTS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE CANDIDATES' FORMATION:**

- No one should ever be forced to receive a sacrament. Care should be taken to ensure that parental or peer pressure does not serve as a significant motivation of the candidate. The candidate should be provided with the opportunity to make a free decision about the reception of Confirmation (6.4.1).
- A two-year formation program is required during the high school years.
- Candidates normally receive the sacrament in the 10th grade. (6.3.2a and the episcopal memo dated 6-8-2022).
- Critical to successful evangelization and conversion is an introduction to the essentials of faith, e.g., core message of Jesus' whole ministry (kerygma), the Incarnation, the Paschal Mystery, the Holy Trinity, Pentecost, and eternal life (6.2.3).
- Formation should not rely exclusively on one leader or one catechist but should involve parishioners and peers (6.2.4).
- Candidates should be invited and encouraged to attend Mass, providing opportunities for them to attend before, during, or after formation sessions, and to learn about the Eucharistic Liturgy (6.2.5).
- A retreat is highly recommended as a component of evangelization (6.2.1).
- Opportunities for service should be provided for the candidates during preparation (6.2.6).
- Candidates should also be prepared for and given the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (6.3.2e).
- Formation on the liturgy of confirmation is to be given (6.3.2e).
- All efforts should be made to welcome people with special needs for the reception of Confirmation. In close collaboration with parents/guardians, they are to be integrated into a faith formation program as much as possible utilizing catechesis that incorporates a wide range of learning abilities and strategies (2.2.3.2).
- Individuals without the use of reason are not required to receive formation as a prerequisite for the celebration of the sacrament (2.2.3.2).
- As a model of faith for the candidate, the Sponsor must be more than a friend or relative or boy/girlfriend whom the candidate wishes to honor by inviting him or her to take this role. Sponsors should be solid in their faith, practicing Catholics who exemplify Catholic life (6.5.2).

**PARISH LEADERS AND CLERGY, YOU ARE NOT ALONE.** Consultation services and support are available to parish leaders of Confirmation preparation through the diocesan Office of Evangelization and Discipleship. **Contact: Faith Formation Team at 984-900-3423.**

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**OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION  
AND DISCIPLESHIP**



## \*DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT: KEY ASPECTS RELATED TO YOUTH MINISTRY

### LEVEL A

Adult Volunteer –

Occasionally present (i.e. speaker, kitchen/office helper, audio-visual assistant, parent, vendor)

#### Forms to Complete:

English [Diocese of Raleigh](#)

Español [Diócesis de Raleigh](#)

### LEVEL B

Adult Volunteer –

Regularly present

18-24 years old (OCYP says 18-21)  
young adults are in this category

#### Forms to Complete:

English [Diocese of Raleigh](#)

Español [Diócesis de Raleigh](#)

### LEVEL C

Adult Leader

(Volunteer or Staff Member) –

Minimum age 25 years old

Supervises LEVEL A and LEVEL B  
Volunteers

#### Forms to Complete:

English [Diocese of Raleigh](#)

Español [Diócesis de Raleigh](#)

**Safe Environment Training** is REQUIRED, *renewed annually*, and includes a Criminal Background Check

**Volunteers under age 18 (youth peers)** are permissible.  
No diocesan form is required.

Confirmandi who turn 18 during the preparation years are not considered volunteers and are not required to complete Safe Environment instruction.

#### Video Resources:

Levels of Volunteers in Ministry with Youth

English [Levels of Volunteers](#)

Español [Levels of Volunteers](#)

Two Deep Leadership (2 Level C leaders, per gathering)

English [Two-Deep Leadership](#)

Español [Two-Deep Leadership](#)