



Hi Everyone.

We hope that you're enjoying all the wonderful moments of your Fall sessions and ACEing community. As always, we are grateful for your leadership and your commitment to the families we serve.

We'd like to share some thoughts that matter deeply to you, our volunteers, our families, and the mission we all serve together.

Recent national events have certainly inflamed public discourse, and now safety. We are first and foremost concerned about protecting children, volunteers, and the mission.

When volunteers wear an ACEing shirt, function as an ACEing representative, and make public statements or express views related to national events (via social media or other means,) they're placed in a position to attract a dissenting view. That's natural. However, members of the public may be unable to distinguish if that volunteer is representing some viewpoint of the organization. Further, social media activity that is intentionally divisive can draw attention to the local program served by that volunteer. Unintended consequences can quickly escalate.

Among ACEing's values are: a) being an inclusive organization that respects a wide range of responsible viewpoints, b) making decisions in the best interest of participating children.

We're all conducting events for the public, in the public. As representatives of ACEing, active volunteers are encouraged to consider how their online activity may reflect on themselves, their local program, and ACEing Autism. The professionalism and care that we all model on the court for our kids is just as important off the court, including online.

Attached is guidance for volunteers. We hope this is helpful and ask you to please communicate it to your volunteers in the manner and setting that you feel is most effective. We want to educate, remind, and empower volunteers to be positive leaders, to model digital citizenship, and to build a legacy they can be proud of.

If we can help, please don't hesitate one minute to reach out so that we can assist. Personal expression and civic engagement is very important. With it comes responsibility to ensure that others are not unintentionally impacted.

Thank you.

Philip Milburn
President

