

## **Volunteer Program Child Protection Policy**

Thank you for supporting the EKARI Foundation’s efforts to empower students and their communities in Malawi, Africa. We take seriously our responsibility to promote child-safe practices and to protect children from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation in any form. A child is defined as any person below the age of 18 years. All EKARI Foundation volunteers are required to sign our established standards of behavior and responsibilities that are as follows:

1. Volunteers will interact with children honorably and respectfully, in word and action.
2. Volunteers will not take a child or children into a private place out of view of other adults. Volunteers will be accompanied by EKARI staff, parent/legal guardians, and/or community members on visits with children.
3. Where possible, and practical, the “two-adult” rule, wherein two or more adults supervise all activities where children are involved and are present at all times, should be followed.
4. Volunteers should be aware of high-risk situations and immediately report the circumstances of any situation that may be subject to misinterpretation to EKARI staff.
5. Volunteers are responsible for maintaining an appropriate relationship with children, even if a child behaves inappropriately. Volunteers should not place themselves in compromising or vulnerable positions.
6. Volunteers will respect the privacy of the children and their communities by refraining from posting personal information on the Internet, such as the child’s full name, date of birth, and community information (e.g., name and location).
7. We highly encourage volunteers to correspond with community members that they created relationships with during their volunteer experience. To protect volunteers and children, all correspondence with children must pass through the EKARI Foundation. No exchange of contact details will take place between a volunteer and children.
8. Volunteers will not communicate with children through social media.

Inappropriate behavior toward children, including failure to follow the above established standards of behavior and responsibilities is grounds for discipline, including dismissal.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree with the statements above regarding the protection of children and will abide by these established standards of behavior and responsibilities during my volunteer experience with the EKARI Foundation.

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_