



# **SOCIETY** **of** **YOUNG** **MAGICIANS**

**Society of Young Magicians  
Leader Handbook**

(Revised 1/23/2021)

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# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY OF YOUNG MAGICIANS

The Society of Young Magicians (S.Y.M.) is part of The Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.). S.A.M. members credited as co-founders of the S.Y.M. includes Edward Schuman, National President 1968-69; Donald Lea, National President 1977-78; Raymond Corbin, National President 1984-85; Dan Rodriguez, National President 1993-94; Dick Laneau, and Wendell Gibson. Those S.A.M. members saw a need to give youth an opportunity to learn the art and ethics of magic.

- 1984 - The youth program is founded, named the Society of Young Magicians, and its monthly publication would be called *The Magic SYMbol*. The first 4 S.Y.M. Assemblies were formed in the co-founders' home cities, including S.Y.M. Assembly #1 in Nashua NH, S.Y.M. Assembly #2 in Westminster MD, S.Y.M. Assembly #3 in Denver CO, and S.Y.M. Assembly #4 in St. Petersburg FL.
- 1984 – The S.A.M. appoints Wendell Gibson as the first Program Director of the Society of Young Magicians. He served in that role until 1991.
- 1987 – S.A.M. National President William Andrews appoints S.A.M. First Vice President Father Cyprian Murray to draft a constitutional amendment to permit S.Y.M. members to join the S.A.M. The vote passed unanimously in July 1988. At that time, other S.A.M. members had established S.Y.M. Assemblies in a total of 31 cities.
- 1991 – Margaret Dailey, S.A.M. National President 1990-91 is appointed S.Y.M. National Director and served in that role until 1999.
- 1991 - Using a significant grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., 22 S.Y.M. Assemblies are established in Central Indiana. The funding also includes producing several television public service announcements featuring Harry Blackstone, Jr.
- 1994 – The S.A.M. Convention expands its offerings with new activities for youth, including the "Leaders Workshop," "Autograph Party" with professional magicians, and "Kids Doing Magic for Kids."
- 1995 - S.Y.M. Board Members develop the Youth Protection profile form to be completed by each S.Y.M. Assembly leader. The comprehensive vetting process includes interviews, character references, and criminal background checks before anyone can become an S.Y.M. Leader.
- 1999 - Char Bontjes Gott is appointed S.Y.M. National Director and served in that role until 2002.
- 2002 - Jann Wherry Goodsell, S.A.M. National President 2000-2001 is appointed S.Y.M. National Director and served in that role until 2016.
- 2016 –Dan Rodriguez, National President 1993-94, is appointed S.Y.M. Executive Director and served in that role until 2020.
- 2016 – *The Magic SYMbol* is relaunched as a digital online publication.
- 2018 – S.Y.M. Child Protection Policy is revised, and mandatory child protection training is launched for S.Y.M. leaders and support volunteers.
- 2019 – *The Magic SYMbol* is included in *M-U-M* with online content.
- 2020 – Arlen Solomon is appointed S.Y.M. Executive Director and currently serves in that role.

A more detailed history of the S.Y.M. is featured in the September 2015 issue of *M-U-M* Magazine.

# S.Y.M. YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING PROGRAM

The Youth Protection program is mandatory training for all S.Y.M. leaders, assistant leaders, and support volunteers. It is also recommended training for S.Y.M. parents, S.A.M. leadership, or anyone who teaches or performs for children.

## Steps to be S.Y.M. Youth Protection Certified

1. Watch the Youth Protection Training Video online at <https://www.magicsam.com/symypt>.
2. Complete the Youth Protection Training Proficiency Test online (link is located below the training video)
3. Email your completed test as an attachment to the S.Y.M. Youth Protection Coordinator at: [dan@magicsam.com](mailto:dan@magicsam.com) or mail to:

Dan Rodriguez  
S.Y.M. Youth Protection Coordinator  
P.O. Box 24226  
Denver, CO 80224

4. Complete and sign the Youth Protection Policy Agreement (page 31)
5. Complete The Society of Young Magicians Voluntary Disclosure/Authorization/Release Form to authorize the S.Y.M. to do a background check (page 37)
6. Mail Voluntary Disclosure/Authorization/Release Form to:

The Society of Young Magicians  
Attn: Jann Goodsell, Background Check Coordinator  
P.O. Box 24226  
Denver, CO 80224

As an S.Y.M. leader, you are required to be recertified every three years. Return the completed proficiency test with your completed leader worker profile, youth protection policy agreement, and any other required paperwork to the S.Y.M. youth protection coordinator [dan@magicsam.com](mailto:dan@magicsam.com). You can get a digital or printed version of the complete S.Y.M. Youth Protection Policy by contacting the national S.Y.M. youth protection coordinator.

S.A.M. members can access the Youth Protection Policy online at <https://www.magicsam.com/symypt>

Remember, youth protection begins with YOU!

# YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

## **Non-Discrimination**

S.Y.M. membership is open to youth from the age of seven *through* 17 with a demonstrated, serious interest in magic who are able to function age-appropriately in a cooperative group environment. The S.A.M. and the S.Y.M. comply with all applicable anti-discrimination laws and does not illegally discriminate against or give preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of age, race, gender, color, economic status, ethnicity, linguistic heritage, cultural background, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability or ability, medical condition, religious creed, marital status, employment status, housing status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other characteristic, status or distinction that is protected by law in the selection of members and volunteers for S.Y.M.'s youth programs and services. The S.Y.M. is committed to providing a balanced, safe, and educational environment for all participants and volunteers. S.Y.M. firmly believes that everyone should be treated equally and fairly.

## **Youth Protection**

The S.Y.M. strives to create a safe and secure environment for its youth participants. We encourage participants and parents who may have concerns to let us know so we can ensure the issues are addressed. The guidelines and procedures set forth below represent our effort to ensure all S.Y.M. leaders, volunteers, and youth members understand the expectations of the S.Y.M.. All S.Y.M. Assemblies are responsible for creating their own Youth Protection Policies and adhering to them; the following guidelines and procedures apply to everyone, including leaders, volunteers, and S.Y.M. members.

## **Zero Tolerance Policy Against Abuse**

Abuse of any kind shall not be permitted within our organization. S.Y.M. does not tolerate any form of abuse, whether physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal, or any other misconduct from our leaders, volunteers, or youth members. Physical or sexual abuse is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, spitting, indecent gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, innuendo, or suggestions. Emotional or verbal abuse is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of foul, demeaning, threatening, or bullying language or making abusive statements about a person's race, gender, religion, nationality, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, or any other characteristic.

## **Barriers to Abuse**

Every activity sponsored by the S.Y.M. should be monitored to ensure no youth or group of youth is alone without an S.Y.M. leader or other approved adult. Unless an emergency exists, no adult shall take a youth alone to bathrooms or any other secluded setting. When traveling with youth participants, youth should be paired with other youth of the same gender and similar age group. Sleeping, bathing, and clothes-changing accommodations must respect the privacy of the youth. Youth shall be empowered to trust their feelings, and S.Y.M. leaders and volunteers shall make clear that their concerns are important by listening to them. Open communication between youth and parents or between youth and other adults in the organization may help reveal early warning signs of abuse.

## **Mandatory Reporting of Abuse**

Part of your leadership responsibility is to be alert to any activity or condition that could threaten the safety of our youth. All persons involved with S.Y.M. shall immediately report to local law enforcement authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that a youth is—or has been—physically, sexually, or emotionally abused or neglected or exposed to any form of violence, threat, or sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation includes the possession, manufacture, or distribution of youth pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material.

The reporting party shall also submit a written report to the S.Y.M. Executive Director within 24 hours of the first notification. The report shall include a narrative of the reported abuse or concerns, actions taken by the reporting party, witnesses to any inappropriate conduct, and any other relevant information. Finally, leaders, volunteers, and S.Y.M. members are encouraged to contact the S.A.M. National Administrator at 303-362-0575 to address any questions about this policy, its purpose, or the S.Y.M.'s expectations.

## **Responding to Reports of Abuse**

The S.Y.M. will respond promptly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. Information will be communicated to law enforcement authorities for investigation and shall be reviewed by the organization's directors. The alleged offender may be notified of the allegations and dealt with appropriately, after consideration given to guidance by law enforcement authorities or other professionals on appropriate notification measures.

Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily. If the accused member does not resign voluntarily, a majority vote during an executive session at any regular or special meeting of the S.A.M. National Council may suspend that member immediately until further notice. Such suspension may occur regardless of any civil or criminal finding relating to the alleged abuse because the continued presence of the accused person could damage the reputation of the organization and could be construed as being harmful to the participants. An accused person who is later cleared of the charges may apply to be reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, however, and the S.A.M. makes no guarantee that he or she will be reinstated to his or her former role.

## **Mandatory Youth Protection Policies include**

- Two-deep leadership (2 adults at all activities, at least one must be an active adult S.A.M. member)
- No one-on-one contact
- Respect for privacy
- Separate accommodations
- No secret organizations
- Appropriate attire
- Constructive discipline
- Youth leader training and supervision
- Member responsibility
- Parent Responsibility
- Assembly responsibilities
- Prohibition of hazing
- Prohibition of bullying

All S.Y.M. leaders and volunteers must comply with these policies. Violations of these policies put the S.A.M. and S.Y.M. at risk and will result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from participating in S.Y.M. activities and revocation of membership in the S.A.M.

## **Meeting the Needs of Child Abuse Victims**

At some point, an S.Y.M. member may confide in you or tell you that they have been abused.

- DON'T panic or overreact to the information disclosed by the child.
- DON'T criticize the child.
- DON'T promise not to tell anyone.
- DO listen intently and obey the no one-on-one contact policy.
- DO respect the child's privacy.
- DO make sure the child feels that he or she is not to blame.

## **Sexual Molestation by Adults**

Child molesters are the people who sexually abuse and exploit children. They are usually not strangers but are most often adults or other juveniles who were trusted and known to or by the children they victimize. The S.Y.M. Youth Protection policies are designed to help you detect inappropriate behavior of molesters.

There are several methods child molesters use to persuade children to give in to molestation. Although force is used in a few cases, molesters most often use a "grooming" process. The grooming process is usually focused on the child's needs and vulnerabilities but may often focus on the child's parents as well. The molester might offer the parents free babysitting services or make friends with them to gain their trust to be alone with the child. Characteristically, the grooming process with the child

will begin with seemingly innocent touching, such as nonsexual hugging, patting the back, and massaging the neck. The molester usually seeks a child who needs affection or attention and makes that child feel special by spending a lot of time with them and by giving gifts and money. The goal of this extra attention is to build the child's (and parents') trust. When the molester senses that the child has been sufficiently conditioned to the physical contact and has an emotional bond, the physical contact becomes more intrusive. The contact may be under the guise of sex education or playing inappropriate games. It may prey on the child's emerging curiosity about sexuality or allow the targeted victim taboo access, i.e., violating rules, drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes—all to create a "special relationship." Photography is often used, perhaps under the ruse of having the child pose for pictures. Molesters are skilled at manipulating children by incorporating the child's ambitions into their strategies. When an adult looks for opportunities to spend a lot of time alone with a child, attempts to isolate the child, or lavishes gifts and/or money on a child for no apparent reason, the child's S.Y.M. leader, assistant leaders, and appointed volunteers need to intervene.

### **Sexual Molestation by Other Youth**

Approximately one-third of sexual molestation occurs at the hands of other children. Youth four to seven years older than the target victim might manipulate the younger child with coercion, size, or knowledge difference. If a child tells you about club initiations, gangs or the use of intimidation or coercion or bullying in which sexual activity is included, or if a child tells you about inappropriate sexual activity by other children, whether by deception, pressure, or force, this is a form of sexual abuse, and you need to take steps to stop the activity by reporting it to the S.Y.M. leader or assistant leader. This form of sexual misconduct is serious and cannot be ignored. Children who molest other children need professional help. This activity is not just "kids being kids." It must be stopped and reported immediately to the S.Y.M. leader.

### **Youth Protection Strategies for Youth Members**

The Society of American Magicians has adopted age-appropriate personal safety messages for our youth. For all S.Y.M. members, we stress the 4 Rules for Personal Safety. For teenage S.Y.M. members, we teach the "3 R's" of personal safety.

#### **The 4 Rules of Personal Safety**

Encourage all children to seek adult help in making personal safety decisions. The rules are as follows:

1. Check first with a parent or another trusted adult before changing plans or accepting anything from anyone.
2. Go with a friend in order to be safer and to have more fun. For S.Y.M. members, the friend should be a parent, another trusted adult, or an older child approved by the parents.
3. It is my body, and I have the right to say "No" to anyone who tries to touch me anywhere that makes me feel uncomfortable or to do things that I think are wrong.
4. Tell a trusted adult whenever I am hurt, scared, or made to feel uncomfortable.

#### **3 R's of Personal Safety**

1. Recognize that anyone could be a child molester and be aware of situations that could lead to abuse.
2. Resist advances made by child molesters to avoid being molested.
3. Report molestation or attempted molestation to a trusted adult.

### **Bullying**

Bullying always involves one person or group trying to intimidate a target (victim)—often repeatedly. It might involve a physical act: hitting, kicking, biting, or shoving. It might also involve verbal or emotional abuse: teasing, put-downs, name-calling, hazing, hurtful joking, or intimidation. Bullies also sometimes use racial or sexual slurs or make threatening gestures. Bullying usually takes place out of the sight of adults and away from meetings. As a result, children frequently don't show how much bullying upsets them and often remain silent. The bully often threatens reprisals for "telling." The victim also may think adults won't or can't help him, or they may feel ashamed for not defending themselves. Bullying is not a "right of passage" or simply part of growing up. The fear and anxiety of bullying cause kids to avoid not only bullies but also the places where they hang out, including S.Y.M. activities. And far from "toughening up" targets of bullying, bullying can devastate their self-esteem and self-confidence. If the behavior continues, the victim may suffer long-lasting feelings of isolation and sadness—even depression. Bullying even affects groups, as other members might wonder if they will be the next targets. Bullying in all forms is prohibited in the S.Y.M..

The National Council of The Society of American Magicians has determined that various chat rooms and social media have been improperly utilized as outlets for cyberbullying, which targets magic, magicians, and youngsters who are interested in magic. The Society of American Magicians opposes and condemns cyberbullying in any and all forms, including but not limited to, all forms of hate speech, the use of words that attack physical appearance, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, or nationality.

### **Steps to Stop Bullying**

- S.Y.M. leaders and support volunteers should always be on the lookout for bullying behavior.
- Stop the actions and protect the target from danger.
- Identify the behavior in a calm tone and say that it's not OK.
- Speak with the target.
- Encourage the target to tell his or her parents and S.Y.M. leader.
- Tell the S.Y.M. leader or designated assistant leader of the bullying incident.

To reduce the likelihood of bullying in an S.Y.M. assembly meeting, create an anti-bullying culture throughout the meeting by always modeling mutual respect, kindness, and inclusion and never solving problems through aggression. S.Y.M. leaders, assistant leaders, and appointed volunteers should always model positive feedback and demonstrate how to connect constructively with one another.

### **Screening Adult Leaders**

All S.Y.M. leaders and assistant leaders who will be supervising youth shall undergo a complete background check at least every 3 years. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, multi-jurisdictional criminal record checks, an FBI fingerprint check, a National Sex Offender registry check, a driver's license check, and a Social Security trace. The ability to work or volunteer with S.Y.M. is contingent upon satisfactory results of those checks. The national office of the S.Y.M. will initiate and cover the cost of all screenings for active S.A.M. members. Non-member leaders and assistant leaders may be asked to pay the cost of their own screenings.

S.Y.M. leaders and assistant leaders will be required to participate in periodic youth protection training offered by the S.Y.M. Adult volunteers, and parents are also invited and encouraged to participate in these training sessions. The national office of the S.Y.M. may cover the cost for any adult attending youth protection training.

### **Conduct at the Conclusion of Meetings**

It is strongly urged that the adult leaders of assemblies adopt a strict policy with regard to the means of departure at the conclusion of each meeting, and communicate that policy to S.Y.M. parents, and enforce the policy. The basic elements may include the following:

A requirement that members be picked up by a parent or other authorized adult, except in cases where other arrangements have been made (e.g., situations where all members go home by school activity bus or where older youth may appropriately depend upon themselves with prior policy or parental approval).

The use of a specified location for the members to wait, under a leader or other adult supervision, until picked up and to assure that they are met by parents or other authorized adults. This commitment by the leaders will ensure that the assembly meetings will always be fun and safe.

It should be noted that although these policies are very important and prudent, it is not necessary to imagine a tragedy in order for these steps to make sense. Both adults and children can have unexpected needs for assistance (parent arrives late or forgets; the child becomes ill). It is both necessary and a great comfort to have supervising adults who are familiar with the youth in attendance. It is sometimes stunning, but understandable, the terror that can be felt by a child in a period even as short as five minutes when a parent is late, and the child feels forgotten. Such fears can ruin for the child the wonderful experience of a successful assembly meeting.

# LET'S ORGANIZE AN S.Y.M. ASSEMBLY

To charter a new S.Y.M. assembly, you must have at least seven S.Y.M. members and two adult S.Y.M. leaders that are active S.A.M. members, one of whom is 21 years of age or older. All S.Y.M. leaders and assistant leaders who will be supervising youth shall undergo a complete background check at least once every three years. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, multi-jurisdictional criminal record checks, an FBI fingerprint check, a National Sex Offender registry check, a driver's license check, and a Social Security trace. Adult leaders are also required to read and sign the S.Y.M. Sexual Harassment and Child Protection Policy and attend child protection training, as required by the S.Y.M.

You can print out and complete the Charter Application form available in this S.Y.M. Leader Handbook or request the form from the S.A.M. New Assembly Coordinator listed under S.Y.M. National Contacts in this Leader Handbook.

Mail the completed charter application with appropriate fees to the S.A.M. National Administrator listed under S.Y.M. National Contacts in this Leader Handbook. Upon receiving your charter, the National Administrator will assign your assembly a number and bring your charter to the annual S.A.M. National Council meeting for approval.

Another option is to reactivate an existing S.Y.M. assembly that was previously chartered in your area.

Contact the S.A.M. National Administrator for more information.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Who should belong to our S.Y.M.?** *All youth from the age of 7 through 17 with an interest in magic are invited to join the S.Y.M.*

**What strategies of recruitment have been most effective?** *Fliers are always effective. You may distribute them through magic shops, schools, and libraries. Call the local newspaper and ask to have the entertainment reporter come to a meeting.*

**What is the optimum size for an S.Y.M. Assembly?** *Small groups of 8 to 10 work best (children learn better with close instruction). However, more leaders or older, experienced youth may help with a larger group.*

**Where is the best place for us to meet, and who will arrange for that?** *S.Y.M. Assemblies should meet in a public location. Ask your local school, church, library, assisted-living home, or shopping mall. Many of these locations will give you a room for free; however, you may offer a free show performed by the youth in exchange for rent. The leaders, parents, or volunteers from your S.Y.M. Assembly or someone from your local S.A.M. assembly may contact the venue.*

**What day should meetings happen and for how long a time and how often?** *The S.Y.M. parents and support volunteers should help you decide when to meet and the time. Meeting once a month gives the youth time to work on what they have learned at the meetings. One hour should give you enough time to cover everything. However, the amount of time you will need to teach your group may depend on the group's size or what you are teaching. You might tell the S.Y.M. members that you will come early and stay late for any extra help they may need.*

**What kind of meeting format is most effective?** *Set a time at the beginning of each meeting for S.Y.M. members to perform a program and earn their awards in the Achievement Pin Program. You may use the rest of the meeting for guest lectures and to teach new effects. At the end of each meeting, the youth can ask questions on what they have learned, show tricks, or talk about magic.*

**Who should call S.Y.M. members and their families for reminders?** *Leaders should delegate tasks such as reminder calls and other activities to Support Volunteers. It is hard to do it all yourself, so you will need support to make your S.Y.M. Assembly the best it can be.*

**Who will be responsible for keeping our records and information?** *The S.Y.M. leader may delegate this task to a Support Volunteer; however, the S.Y.M. leader should always maintain a copy of all records pertaining to the S.Y.M. Assembly.*

**How can we best work with S.A.M. members who will help with instruction?** *Email members from your local S.A.M. Assembly and ask them to come to teach an effect. Always have a backup plan in case your presenter cancels.*

**Should the meeting include refreshments, roll call, dues collecting?** *The time and day that you meet may determine whether or not you wish to serve refreshments. You can delegate this task to one of the adult volunteers. You may collect dues if you wish. They may help offset the cost of supplies; however, the youth may not want to join if the dues are too high.*

**Where are the resources and guidelines to ensure our success?** *Keep reading! This guidebook is filled with advice on making your S.Y.M. a wonderful and magical program for your area's youth. The members of the S.Y.M. are the future of the S.A.M.*

# YOUR SUPPORT VOLUNTEER GROUP

If there's a secret to building a successful S.Y.M. Assembly, it is having outstanding leaders who can work with youth and a wonderful group of adults to support them. We strongly recommend that each leader form such a group. Start with an S.A.M. Assembly to secure individuals to teach different effects to the S.Y.M. members. Now is the time to get the S.Y.M. parents involved in helping. When a new member joins the S.Y.M., give the parents the Supporting Volunteer Application (available in this handbook) and ask them to fill in the spaces where they can help and return it to you or the lead volunteer in charge of delegating those tasks.

There are many support volunteer roles, e.g., attending meetings, substituting when the leader is absent, suggesting programs and activities, and listening to comments and suggestions from members and parents. You will find a Support Volunteer List that you may copy and use for your S.Y.M. assembly on page 39. Short descriptions of these roles are listed below.

- Setup/Cleanup—Helps to set up and clean up.
- Performance Locations— finds locations for the S.Y.M. to perform.
- Historian—Collects and preserves historical documents, the charter, photographs, and newspaper articles.
- Greeter—Greets everyone upon arrival and keeps the meetings moving by greeting late arrivals.
- Teaching—Demonstrates or assembles effects.
- Newsletter—Prepares and mails notices and newsletters.
- Recorder—Maintains necessary records.
- Caller—Organizes phone/email list of parents. Don't directly contact S.Y.M. members without parental permission.
- Librarian—Checks out books, DVDs, and props.
- Picnic—Organizes an annual S.Y.M. picnic.
- Dues—Collects local dues, if applicable.
- Special Duties—Let the parent volunteers determine what they would like to do.

Your support volunteers may gather informally after meetings to exchange ideas, agree upon responsibilities, and make decisions. Other people may join in, and their input should always be considered.

**\*SUPPORT VOLUNTEER APPLICATION page 39 \***

# MOTIVATING SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Encourage your Support Volunteers to want to do things by recognizing and rewarding their accomplishments.

Praise in public. Point out the good parts of participation. Be considerate. Give credit where it is honestly due. Demonstrate interest in and appreciation for all Support Volunteers. Do the extra personal things—a written note, a reference, a phone call. Make your wishes known by suggestions or requests - not orders.

When you make a suggestion or request, be certain to explain the reasons for it. Let Support Volunteers in on your plans and programs, even at an early stage.

Remember that the leader sets the style for the Support Volunteers. Class is contagious.

Show Support Volunteers that you have confidence in them and that you expect their best efforts.

Ask individual Support Volunteers for their counsel, help, and ideas, and then use the stuff.

If an idea from a Support Volunteer is adopted or rejected, tell the originator why. Write it out.

When you are wrong or make a mistake, admit it publicly and privately.

Keep Support Volunteers informed about everything, especially what affects them.

Make personal contact before and after meetings to encourage participation.

Give Support Volunteers tasks to do immediately. The interest level will be highest at the beginning. Encourage them early on in order to generate enthusiasm.

# SUPPORT S.Y.M. WITH AMAZONSMILE

You can support the Society of Young Magicians every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you. <https://Smile.amazon.com> is a website operated by Amazon with the Same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on **AmazonSmile**, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Imagine what kind of impact could be made if every S.A.M. member selected the S.A.M. to receive money every time they made a purchase on Amazon.

PLEASE JOIN US! Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>. Your Amazon account and AmazonSmile account are the Same. Select

**-Society of American Magicians Magic Endowment Fund Inc**

Amazon will remember your selection, and every eligible purchase made will result in a donation to the S.A.M. AmazonSmile will also show you the donation amounts disbursed to the S.A.M.

# CREATING A CURRICULUM

As an S.Y.M. leader, you have plenty of homework ahead of you. You and your support volunteers should pre-plan the agenda for your first one or two year(s) of meetings. The following recommended topics should include the fundamentals and basic skills and cover each category in the Achievement Pin Program. However, you are encouraged to build on what is there and to add your own ideas for teaching those skills. Topics should include cards, coins, silk, paper, sponge, rope, impromptu, mentalism, and general or miscellaneous magic. You should also include teaching tricks and sharing performance tips from *M-U-M* or *The Magic SYMbol* and spend some time reviewing the S.A.M. Pledge. Some S.Y.M. assemblies have their members recite the pledge at the start of each meeting.

S.Y.M. leaders can also help their members with performance techniques, such as showmanship, scripting for magic effects, artistic direction, music selection, public speaking skills; and assist in the creation of new magic acts or effects. You may also discuss how to select and treat volunteers, how to treat your audience, how to recover from a magic disaster, the placement of magic props and effects, before, during and after the effect, and more.

If you have magic books in your collection you don't mind sharing with the kids; you could create an assembly magic library. It could fit in a small suitcase or container for easy transport, so you can take it to every meeting for the kids to enjoy.

# PLANNING FOR VARIETY

Most meetings will probably follow the same agenda: Recite the S.Y.M. Pledge, Show Time, Teaching and Practice, Conclusion. But as time passes, you may need to vary your approach. New members will generally need to learn fundamentals that advanced members have already learned. Occasionally, the advanced members may help teach. This is good in moderation, but not at every meeting, or your advanced members will be shortchanged.

Having knowledgeable magicians among your Support Volunteers allows you to split the group for instruction. Sometimes it is possible for each group to work on the same basic objective. Beginners can learn an easy card force, while advanced students learn a more difficult force. You could invite local magicians to present programs highlighting their skills. Those special meetings should open with the member's show. Then the guest magician performs and teaches an effect.

In the summer, your S.Y.M. may have a picnic to showcase the members' talents to family and friends. Be sure to invite members from the S.A.M., along with guests from the past. It is important to have everyone in the assembly do something. If you have new members or young members that are not ready to perform a trick, have them introduce the performers.

Flexibility includes having a backup plan if something falls through at the last minute. You should keep a folder with an assortment of other types of magic and related items. When something goes wrong, you can go to the folder to find material to teach.

The following is a list of possible topics and items: Rubber Band Magic, Linking Rings, Liquid Magic, Balloon Magic, Thimble Magic, Magnet Magic, Animal Magic, Bizarre Magic, Bags and Boxes, Escapes, Black Arts, Optical Illusions, Science Magic, Kid Show Magic, Magic at the Dinner Table, Magic at School, Walk-Around Magic, Developing a Character, and Costuming.

Allied Arts: Ventriloquism, Felt Pictures, Origami, Puppetry, Clowning, Face Painting, Balloon Art, Circus Arts, Juggling, Theatre, Dance, Pantomime

S.Y.M. members may also enjoy exploring magic with science, math, or creating their own magic tricks during a magic craft day.

Although many of these ideas are covered or touched upon in your regular curriculum, you may use a meeting to cover them more in-depth.

# A ONE-HOUR MEETING

The one-hour format has several benefits:

1. It forces you to plan your meeting carefully. The general objective is to develop a love of magic and an understanding of the skills needed to become proficient. You will have to decide what specific objectives should be covered within the allotted time.
2. By starting on time and ending on time, you encourage members and their parents to be prompt.
3. A one-hour meeting makes it convenient for parents to stay, and it helps stimulate their involvement. Several parents may begin to develop their own interest in magic!

TIME STRUCTURE: Always come early and always stay late.

## **RECITE THE S.Y.M. PLEDGE (2 Minutes)**

Have a large poster or banner made with the S.Y.M. Pledge and display it at the front of your meeting area. You could also print the pledge on paper and hand it out to attendees at the start of each meeting. The goal is for all S.Y.M. members to memorize the pledge and understand its meaning.

## **SHOWTIME (10-15 Minutes)**

Magic is an art that must be practiced. Each meeting should include a time when members can perform the effects that they have been practicing. A great resource for new effects is to have a member demonstrate a trick or share an idea from *The Magic SYMbol*. You should encourage prospective members to bring magic to perform. Most of them will already know an effect and will be eager to impress. Set the rules to limit each person to one effect or routine; you want to give everyone equal attention and an opportunity to perform if they want to perform.

Use this time to help your young magicians develop skills for becoming good audience members and on-stage volunteers. It is your job to teach the youth how to watch a performance, be respectful to the performer, be engaged, use appropriate applause and laughter, and to not heckle, boo, or engage in distracting behavior.

## **TEACHING AND PRACTICE TIME (30 Minutes)**

This is when the leaders or your guest teacher show an effect that takes some practice but isn't too difficult. You will probably need to furnish the materials, so be prepared.

## **CONCLUSION (15 Minutes)**

Demonstrate the magic that will be taught at the next meeting and tell your members what to bring. Spend a few minutes discussing what you have covered and remind them to practice. Remind and encourage your members on how to access *M-U-M* and *The Magic SYMbol* from the S.A.M. website, <https://www.magicSYM.com>. Announce the time and location of any special events that they may wish to attend. Hand out application forms and information packets about your S.Y.M. assembly to all new guests. Thank the guests for coming to your meeting and invite everyone to return.

# OPTIONAL MEETING AGENDA PLANNER

**\*WEAR S.A.M. LOGO APPAREL\***

## **PREPARATION & MATERIALS NEEDED:**

1. S.Y.M. Pledge Sheets for kids
2. Have kids write their introductions on index cards for emcees
3. \*\*\*no last names on anything\*\*\*

## **GATHERING (10-15 min):**

1. 10-15 minutes before the meeting for kids to interact
2. LIBRARY BOOK BORROWING

## **OPENING (2 min):**

Recite the S.Y.M. Pledge

## **BUSINESS TALK TIME (5-10 min):**

1. Notification/Reminders of upcoming meetings/events
2. Pin Program fee collection and forms
3. Meeting information: telling magicians what to expect at this meeting

## **SHOWTIME (15-30 min):**

1. Kids get to perform their magic, and one kid is the emcee each month
2. Testing for Pin Program

## **ACTIVITIES (15-30 min):**

\*TEACHING & PRACTICE\*

## **CLOSING (10 min):**

1. Notes for the next meeting
2. Raffle prize at the end of every meeting
3. Choose the next emcee
4. Young Magicians tidy up

## **AFTER THE MEETING (10-15 min):**

1. Review success of the meeting, record what was completed, communicate with parents
2. Healthy refreshments or snacks

# ACHIEVEMENT PIN PROGRAM

The S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Program allows S.Y.M. members to explore nine areas of magic, demonstrate skill in those areas, and receive recognition for their accomplishments. The Achievement Pin Program's progressive nature also measures how young magicians are advancing in their magical journey. As candidates work from Bronze to Silver to Gold, they will learn valuable leadership skills aimed at increasing confidence in all areas of life. S.Y.M. advisors are available to help candidates work toward earning their pins and to ensure that candidates meet all requirements. S.Y.M. members who do not belong to an S.Y.M. assembly will be able to receive help from advisors via postal mail or electronically.

How you embrace this program is up to you; it enhances and expands the S.Y.M. mission and makes S.Y.M. membership more attractive to young people. On the local level, the pin program can enhance your meetings. You can hold a pin test night when members test for pins and hold an award ceremony when they receive them. You can turn those events into shows!

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Program coordinator will provide worksheets in which candidates and adult supervisors can record candidates' progress.
2. Advisors or supervisors must return completed forms to the S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Program coordinator for review, after which pins will be awarded.
3. Pins will be awarded for completed tricks only. Demonstrating a move (Double Lift or French Drop, for example) will not count. The move must be presented within a completed trick: using a Double Lift to force or find a card, for example.
4. There is no limit to the number of pins candidates may receive, as long as all requirements are met for each pin.
5. S.Y.M. assembly members will test for pins at an assembly meeting.
6. Associate S.Y.M. members will test for pins by submitting an application, along with a video, DVD, or electronic link to the S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Program Coordinator.
7. Each candidate will submit an application fee of
  - \$4.00** for each bronze or silver pin;
  - \$5.00** for each gold pin.



**Make your check out to:**

**The Society of Young Magicians.**

**Mail your check & Completed Application to:**

*Marlene Clark  
S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Program Coordinator  
274 Church St., #6B  
Guilford, CT 06437*

**Questions? Contact Marlene via email at [afuntime@comcast.net](mailto:afuntime@comcast.net) or phone at 203-598-4958.**

# S.Y.M. ACHIEVEMENT PIN PROGRAM

1. **Categories:** Members may perform close-up, stand-up (parlor), and/or stage magic to earn Bronze and Silver pins in the following categories:

- **Cards**
- **Coins**
- **Silk**
- **Paper**
- **Sponge**
- **Rope**
- **Impromptu**
- **Mentalism**
- **General Magic (Miscellaneous)**

## 2. Requirements

### A. Bronze:

- 1) Candidates must be a member for at least three months.
- 2) Candidates must give and explain the S.Y.M. Pledge.
- 3) Candidates must perform 3 effects in one category to earn a pin in that category: 3 card tricks or 3 sponge tricks, for example.
- 4) Candidates must be able to describe and provide the proper or technical term for each effect or move, e.g., Professor's Nightmare, French Drop, Double Lift, Glide, Cross-cut Force, etc.
- 5) Candidates will be judged on execution and basic skill; e.g., don't tip the method.

### B. Silver

- 1) Candidates must give and explain the S.Y.M. Pledge.
- 2) Candidates must have earned 2 bronze pins in that category (a total of 6 tricks for that category).
- 3) Candidates will perform a 3-to-4-minute routine using at least 2 tricks from the bronze pin in that category. There is no limit to the number of effects used.
- 4) Candidates will be judged on execution, skill, and presentation.
- 5) Candidates must write a report of at least 250 words on one famous magician for each silver pin (cite references, if applicable).

### C. Gold "Excellence in Magic"

- 1) Candidates must have earned a Silver pin in 3 categories, e.g., a silver in ropes, coins, and cards means 6 rope tricks, 6 card tricks, and 6 coin tricks).
- 2) Candidates will present an 8-to-10-minute act with a unifying theme or presentation.
  - a) There is no limit to the number of effects used, but 1 effect must be from a Silver routine.
  - b) The act will be judged on skill, presentation, appearance, stage presence, confidence, audience appeal, appropriateness, timing, and public speaking ability (if applicable).
- 3) Candidates will make a 5-to-10 minute oral presentation on any area of magic before an S.Y.M. or S.A.M. meeting or at a public venue, such as a classroom or library.
  - a) Candidates will be judged on knowledge of the material, organization, delivery, appearance, and public speaking ability. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to, magic history, biography (different from the Silver presentation), or theory.
- 4) Candidates will also present their gold pin performances as a community service project for the public at a venue of their choice (nursing home or a Boy Scout troop, for ex.).
- 5) Candidates are responsible for organizing and making all arrangements for all presentations. Following the presentations, candidates will submit a report to the adult advisor detailing the.

# THE *MAGIC SYMbol* AND *M-U-M* MAGAZINE

S.Y.M. membership includes access to the digital version of *M-U-M* Magazine, the official magazine of The Society of American Magicians. *M-U-M* contains magic news, interviews, video links, stories of magicians, magic tricks, and magic trick reviews. It also contains the monthly issue of *The Magic SYMbol*. S.Y.M. members have the option to upgrade their membership to include the paper version of *M-U-M* mailed to them each month.

S.Y.M. members also can access S.A.M. Virtual Assembly V1.1, which features magic lectures and assembly meetings; and the S.A.M. Lecture Hall/Box Office.

The S.Y.M. also has its own Virtual Assembly: V2-SYM

Youths who have reached three years of S.Y.M. membership will be awarded the book **MAGIC IN MIND – Essential Essays for Magicians**, Edited by Joshua Jay. This 550+ page hardcover book assembles 30 of the greatest thinkers in the history of magic, each one discussing an essential aspect of magic. Presentation, effect, magic as art, putting an act together – It's all in this book! Upon renewing the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of membership, the member will automatically receive the book along with their membership card. *If you know of any 3-year S.Y.M. members that have not received this book, contact the S.A.M. National Administrator.*

## Follow these steps to access the S.Y.M. Website, and The Magic SYMbol Online Newsletter

Go to: <https://www.MagicSYM.com> Enter your Username and Password (See below). Click on S.Y.M. Youth. Click on MAGIC SYMbol Online

### Login default credentials:

Default Username: Your email address listed in your S.A.M. profile \*

Default Password: SAM followed by your 5-digit member #), i.e., SAM12345 (no spaces). If you cannot log in, contact the National Administrator at: [Manon@magicSAM.com](mailto:Manon@magicSAM.com)

*\* We do not collect email addresses for our S.Y.M. members –only their parents, if they provide it. The default username is either the parent's email included with the membership application. If there is no parent email address on file, the default username is the S.Y.M. member's 5-digit membership number, followed by @magic.bz, i.e., 12345@magic.bz. Members can change their default username and password.*

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR S.Y.M. MEMBERS

## **Magic Camp Scholarships**

The Magic Endowment Fund realizes the importance of the magic arts in the lives of youngsters. The development of magical skills and respect for the art of magic can help them gain a positive mental attitude and become more confident in themselves. Candidates must be able to demonstrate talent and dedication to the magical performing arts discipline.

### **Tannen's Magic Camp**

Magic camp is a wonderful place for youngsters to learn new skills, improve their performance abilities and make new friends with similar interests. The campers study under some of the leading professionals, receive helpful critiques of their performance ability, and attend classes that improve their skills.

### **APPLICATION PROVIDED IN FORMS SECTION**

You may also contact Scholarship Chairman Trudy Monti at:

[TrudyMonti@aol.com](mailto:TrudyMonti@aol.com)

## **McBride's Magic & Mystery School**

### **Performing Magic at a Higher Level - McBride School Scholarship**

Do you want to study under the world's best teachers of magic? Are you working on a magic act and need professional direction and coaching? You can achieve all of these goals by applying for a full-tuition scholarship offered by the Society of American Magicians Magic Endowment Fund.

The S.A.M. Magic Endowment Fund awards a full-tuition scholarship to a promising and aspiring magician to attend the Jeff McBride Extended Master Class at the McBride Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas. Founded by Master Magician, Jeff McBride, The Magic & Mystery School is celebrated as "the world's most prestigious magic school" (BBC television). The winner of this scholarship will study with Jeff McBride and the world-class faculty at an Extended Master Class being held in Las Vegas during the Summer of 2022.

The 7 Day Master Class is June 20-26,2022. The scholarship covers the full tuition of the Master Class, but the winner will be responsible for his or her transportation to Las Vegas, lodging, and meals.

Applicants must be at least 13 years of age. Otherwise, there is no age requirement to attend. (If the winner is under the age of 18, he or she must have a parent or legal guardian in Las Vegas during the week of the Master Class.)

Magic Class is an extraordinary experience, which includes a critique of your magic performance, creativity, scriptwriting, and professional feedback of your performance. All candidates must demonstrate existing talent and dedication to achieve improved magical performances and skills.

### **APPLICATION PROVIDED IN FORMS**

You may also contact Trudy Monti at:

[TrudyMonti@aol.com](mailto:TrudyMonti@aol.com)

The deadline for submitting applications for a scholarship to McBride's Magic & Mystery School is February 20, 2022.

# S.Y.M. ASSEMBLY WEBSITE

The S.A.M. provides each S.Y.M. assembly with a public directory listing page and a private assembly group page. The public directory listing page is displayed to the public on the S.A.M. website. This page's information provides general assembly information and contact information about your S.Y.M. assembly to the general public. This is also the page featured when the "Find an Assembly" feature is utilized on the S.A.M. website. Please make sure the information on this page is updated and current. The private assembly group page is for your assembly members only. You must be a "Group Admin" to edit this page. This page can be used to communicate with members, upload blog posts, share photos, etc.

## HOW TO BECOME A "GROUP ADMIN" FOR AN ASSEMBLY

To become a "Group Admin" and gain access to editing your private assembly group page, contact S.A.M. national administrator ([samadministrator@magicsam.com](mailto:samadministrator@magicsam.com)) or contact S.A.M. second vice president, John Sturk ([john@johnsturk.com](mailto:john@johnsturk.com))

## HOW TO UPDATE/EDIT YOUR S.Y.M. PUBLIC DIRECTORY LISTING PAGE

1. Visit <https://www.magicsam.com>
2. Login to your assembly account
  - a. User: assembly\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. assemblyY150)  
Assembly #
  - b. Password: magicsam1
3. Click "edit" located on the "Professional Information" or "Additional Information" line
  - a. Edit contact information, add additional assembly websites, edit meeting location and details
4. This should be verified once or twice a year

## HOW TO SET UP A PRIVATE GROUP PAGE FOR YOUR ASSEMBLY

1. Visit <https://www.magicsam.com>
2. Login to your personal account
3. Click on the SAM Logo at the top left of the page to get to the SAM homepage
4. Near the bottom of the homepage, there are 4 boxes. Look for the "MY PROFILE" box closest to the right of the page
  - a. Click "GROUPS"
5. Click your Assembly link under "MY GROUPS"
  - a. You can edit things on this page using the "GROUP ADMIN OPTIONS" button link located directly under the Assembly Name at the top of the page.
    - i. "CONTENT MANAGEMENT"
      1. Click "HOMEPAGE OPTIONS"
        - a. Create "GROUP SHORT DESCRIPTION"
        - b. Select "GROUP FEATURE MENU OPTIONS" you would like to be displayed on your webpage

- c. Create a “GROUP HOMEPAGE WELCOME TEXT” to be displayed at the top of your webpage
      - i. If you would like to include an image click “UPLOAD FILE” on the grey bar
      - ii. Drag and drop files to upload your image
      - iii. Click the “IMAGE MANAGER” icon
      - iv. Double click on the desired image to be used
    2. Click “GROUP HOMEPAGE LAYOUT” if you would like to edit the layout of your webpage
    3. Click “CUSTOM PAGE” if you would like to create additional pages
  - ii. “CALENDAR MANAGEMENT”
    1. Click “ADD A NEW DATE” or “ADD A NEW EVENT”
      - a. Create a listing for your calendar that will be displayed on your page
        - i. You can include dates, times, location, contact person, short description, images for the event, and other media.
        - ii. You can also make the event recurring by using the “RECURRENCE SETTING”
  - iii. “PHOTO MANAGEMENT”
    1. Click “MANAGE PHOTO ALBUMS”
      - a. Create and manage albums for your photos on your page
    2. Click “VIEW ALL PHOTOS”
      - a. View all photos uploaded to your page
    3. Click “VIEW PENDING PHOTOS”
      - a. If other members upload photos to your page, they must be approved by a “Group Admin”
      - b. You can ACCEPT photos here so they may be shared on your page
    4. Click “VIEW ACCEPTED PHOTOS”
      - a. View all accepted photos here
    5. Click “VIEW REJECTED PHOTOS”
      - a. View all rejected photos that are not posted on your site here
  - iv. “BLOG MANAGEMENT”
    1. Click “VIEW BLOGS”
      - a. There is an assembly blog automatically created for you
      - b. You can add a post to an existing blog by clicking it
    2. Click “START A NEW BLOG”
      - a. You can create additional blogs here
  - v. “FORUM MANAGEMENT”
    1. Click “VIEW FORUM CATEGORIES”
      - a. Manage your forum categories here
    2. Click “ADD A NEW CATEGORY”
      - a. Add a new forum category here
    3. Click “VIEW FORUM”
      - a. View all forums here
    4. Click “ADD A FORUM”

- a. Add a forum and assign it a category here
- vi. “MEMBER MANAGEMENT”
  - 1. Click “VIEW CURRENT MEMBERS”
    - a. All members on record with the national administration will be here
    - b. All members found here have access to your private group page
  - 2. Click “VIEW PENDING MEMBERS”
    - a. All members who would like to join your private group page will appear here for you to approve or deny
    - b. You should check this periodically to keep your member records current
  - 3. Click “VIEW MEMBERSHIP LOG”
    - a. All member requests will appear here
  - 4. Click “EXPORT GROUP MEMBERS”
    - a. A .csv file will be created for download to your computer
- vii. “MEMBER COMMUNICATION”
  - 1. Click “EMAIL ALL GROUP MEMBERS”
    - a. Create and send an email to all members of your group
    - b. All emails sent through this page will only display text. NO IMAGES OR VIDEOS CAN BE INCLUDED IN THESE EMAILS
- viii. “REPORTING”
  - 1. Click “AVAILABLE REPORTS”
    - a. All available reports will appear here

**\*FOR ADDITIONAL HELP VIEW VIDEO TUTORIALS\***  
<https://www.magicsam.com/page/wtutorials>

## HOW TO UPLOAD PHOTOS TO AN ASSEMBLY GROUP PAGE

1. Log in as a group administrator
2. Click “Photo Gallery” on the menu on the right side of the page
  - a. Drag and drop photos into the page or click to upload
3. IF YOU ARE ALLOWING MEMBERS TO ADD PHOTOS
  - a. Click Group Admin Options
  - b. Under “Photo Management” click “View Pending Photos”
  - c. Click the appropriate box to approve or deny photos
4. Once the photo is uploaded, it will appear in the newsfeed

**\*FOR ADDITIONAL HELP VIEW VIDEO TUTORIALS\***  
<https://www.magicsam.com/page/wtutorials>

# S.Y.M. NATIONAL CONTACTS

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[marcos@puchols.com](mailto:marcos@puchols.com)

## **Texas**

Houston, TX (forming assembly)  
Jeff Lanes  
[jeffimagic@gmail.com](mailto:jeffimagic@gmail.com)

## **Virginia**

Central Virginia (forming assembly)  
David Clauss  
[visionenhancement@comcast.net](mailto:visionenhancement@comcast.net)

## **Washington**

Y145 Oak Harbor  
James Russell  
[jr@jrrussellfamily.com](mailto:jr@jrrussellfamily.com)

## **International Assemblies**

### **Canada**

Y007 Winnipeg, MB, Canada  
Marc Hache  
[marc.hache@shaw.ca](mailto:marc.hache@shaw.ca)

Y046 Winnipeg, MB, Canada  
Carey Lauder  
[lauderphoto@shaw.ca](mailto:lauderphoto@shaw.ca)

### **South Africa**

Y136 Capetown, South Africa  
Craig Mitchell  
[craig@mitchell.co.za](mailto:craig@mitchell.co.za)

### **V2-SYM Virtual Assembly**

Y151 Worldwide online  
Arlen Solomon  
[sym@magicsam.com](mailto:sym@magicsam.com)  
Les Cooper  
[magicandmore@gmail.com](mailto:magicandmore@gmail.com)



**Young Magician Applicant Information**

**Note: you must be age seven through seventeen to join.**

*Please read the following pledge:*

- I promise to do my best to improve the Art of Magic and to follow the rules of The Society of American Magicians.
- I agree not to tell any of the secrets of magic to anyone who is not a magician and to discourage others from telling their secrets.
- I will be honest and fair as a magician and cooperate with others who are interested in magic.
- I agree to help other magicians in any way that I can. I will encourage them to perfect our art. I will not make fun or ridicule the efforts of any magician
- I will strive to use magic in a positive way for my personal enjoyment and for the amazement and enjoyment of my family, friends, and others.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the pledge \_\_\_\_\_

**\* SIGNED IN HONOR**

**DATE**

**FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY & STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

I consent to my child giving this personal information to The Society of American Magicians.

Parent's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **\* SIGNED**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DATE**

If you are joining an Assembly, enter Assembly number here \_\_\_\_\_

As a member, you will receive a membership card, membership pin, Certificate of Membership, and have full access to the Society website: [www.magicSAM.com](http://www.magicSAM.com) to view the youth newsletter, The Magic SYMbol, and the magazine; M-U-M and discounts to The Society of American Magicians' annual convention. You will also be able to join your local Assembly (Chapter). For a list of chapters around the world, go to [www.MagicSYM.com](http://www.MagicSYM.com)

Please remember to sign this form and send it along with a check for the annual membership fee of \$20 (checks made out to the Society of Young Magicians) to:

**THE SOCIETY OF YOUNG MAGICIANS**  
**Manon Rodriguez, National Administrator**  
**P.O. Box 24226, Denver, CO 80224**



## The S.Y.M. Pledge:

I promise to do my best to improve the Art of Magic and to follow the rules of The Society of American Magicians.

- I agree not to tell any of the secrets of magic to anyone who is not a magician and to discourage others from telling their secrets.
- I will be honest and fair as a magician and cooperate with others who are interested in magic.
- I agree to help other magicians in any way that I can. I will encourage them to perfect our art. I will not make fun or ridicule the efforts of any magician.
- I will strive to use magic in a positive way for my personal enjoyment and for the amazement and enjoyment of my family, friends, and others.

---

(Name)



## S.Y.M. ACHIEVEMENT PIN PROGRAM-Bronze

This worksheet will help track your progress. Your Assembly Advisor, Magic Advisor, or the S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Coordinator must approve your work by dating and initialing each completed requirement.

**Candidate's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**S.Y.M. Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **S.Y.M. Assembly** \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUIREMENTS: Bronze Pin

1. Be an Active Member of the S.Y.M. for at least 3 months.
2. Demonstrate your knowledge by completing these requirements
  - a. Recite and explain the S.Y.M Pledge
  - b. Demonstrate skill in 3 effects or tricks in one category

CATEGORY: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Sign and date when requirements are completed

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

S.Y.M. Pin Program Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fee Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** S.Y.M. Pin Program Coordinator Marlene Clark; 274 Church St., #6B; Guilford, CT 06437  
(Note: You must earn two Bronze Pins in the same category to qualify for a Silver Pin in that category)



## S.Y.M. ACHIEVEMENT PIN PROGRAM- Silver

This worksheet will help track your progress. Your Assembly Advisor, Magic Advisor, or the S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Coordinator must approve your work by dating and initialing each completed requirement.

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

S.Y.M. Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ S.Y.M. Assembly \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUIREMENTS: Silver Pin

1. S.Y.M. Pledge \_\_\_\_\_
2. Bronze category completed (6 tricks in same category) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Bronze effects used (2 minimum) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Length of routine \_\_\_\_\_
5. Execution \_\_\_\_\_
6. Skill \_\_\_\_\_
7. Presentation \_\_\_\_\_
8. Report on famous magician (attached) \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Sign and date when requirements are completed

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Magician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

S.Y.M. Pin Program Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to:* S.Y.M. Pin Program Coordinator Marlene Clark; 274 Church St., #6B; Guilford, CT 06437  
(Note: You must earn a Silver pin in 3 categories to qualify for a Gold Pin)



## S.Y.M. ACHIEVEMENT PIN PROGRAM- Gold

(Page 1 of 2)

This worksheet will help track your progress. Your Assembly Advisor, Magic Advisor, or the S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Coordinator must approve your work by dating and initialing each completed requirement.

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

S.Y.M. Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ S.Y.M. Assembly \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Act \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUIREMENTS: Gold Pin

MAGIC ACT: Date of show \_\_\_\_\_

1. Length \_\_\_\_\_
2. Skill \_\_\_\_\_
3. Presentation \_\_\_\_\_
4. Stage Presence \_\_\_\_\_
5. Appearance \_\_\_\_\_
6. Confidence \_\_\_\_\_
7. Audience Appeal \_\_\_\_\_
8. Appropriateness \_\_\_\_\_
9. Silver routine used (one required) \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Sign and date when requirements are completed

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Magician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_



**S.Y.M. ACHIEVEMENT PIN PROGRAM- Gold**

(Page 2 of 2)

**ORAL PRESENTATION:**

**TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Knowledge \_\_\_\_\_
2. Organization \_\_\_\_\_
3. Delivery \_\_\_\_\_
4. Appearance \_\_\_\_\_
5. Speaking ability \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Sign and date when requirements are completed**

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Magician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT:**

(Describe your project on a separate sheet of paper. Include why you selected the project, how you organized it, who or what benefited from it, and any help you received.)

**Advisor notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Sign and date when requirements are completed**

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Magician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

S.Y.M. Pin Program Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fee Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to:* S.Y.M. Pin Program Coordinator Marlene Clark; 274 Church St., #6B; Guilford, CT 06437



## YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY AGREEMENT

*All S.Y.M. Leaders, Assistant Leaders, and Support Volunteers MUST read, understand, agree to, initial each page, and sign the Youth Protection Policy Agreement.*

### **Non-Discrimination**

S.Y.M. membership is open to youth from the age of seven *through* the age of 17 with a demonstrated, serious interest in magic who are able to function age-appropriately in a cooperative group environment. The S.A.M. and the S.Y.M. complies with all applicable anti-discrimination laws and does not illegally discriminate against or give preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of age, race, gender, color, economic status, ethnicity, linguistic heritage, cultural background, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability or ability, medical condition, religious creed, marital status, employment status, housing status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other characteristic, status or distinction that is protected by law in the selection of members and volunteers for S.Y.M.s youth programs and services. The S.Y.M. is committed to providing a balanced, safe, and educational environment for all participants and volunteers. S.Y.M. firmly believes that everyone should be treated equally and fairly.

### **Youth Protection**

The S.Y.M. strives to create a safe and secure environment for its youth participants. We encourage participants and parents who may have concerns to let us know so we can ensure the issues are addressed. The guidelines and procedures set forth below represent our effort to ensure all S.Y.M. leaders, volunteers, and youth members understand the expectations of the S.Y.M. All S.Y.M. Assemblies are responsible for creating their own Youth Protection Policies and adhering to them; the following guidelines and procedures apply to everyone, including leaders, volunteers, and S.Y.M. members.

### **Zero Tolerance Policy Against Abuse**

Abuse of any kind shall not be permitted within our organization. S.Y.M. does not tolerate any form of abuse, whether physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, or any other misconduct from our leaders, volunteers, or youth members. Physical or sexual abuse is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, spitting, indecent gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, innuendo, or suggestions. Emotional or verbal abuse is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of foul, demeaning, threatening, or bullying language or making abusive statements about a person's race, gender, religion, nationality, color, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, or any other characteristic.

### **Barriers to Abuse**

Every activity sponsored by the S.Y.M. should be monitored to ensure no youth or group of youth is alone without an S.Y.M. leader or other approved adult. Unless an emergency exists, no adult shall take a youth alone to bathrooms or any other secluded setting. When traveling with youth participants, youth should be paired with other youth of the same gender and similar age group. Sleeping, bathing, and clothes-changing accommodations must respect the privacy of the youth. Youth shall be empowered to trust their feelings, and S.Y.M. leaders and volunteers shall make clear that their concerns are important by listening to them. Open communication between youth and parents or between youth and other adults in the organization may help reveal early warning signs of abuse.

### **Mandatory Reporting of Abuse**

Part of your leadership responsibility is to be alert to any activity or condition that could threaten the safety of our youth. All persons involved with S.Y.M. shall immediately report to local law enforcement authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that a youth is—or has been—physically, sexually, or emotionally abused or neglected or exposed to any form of violence, threat, or sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation includes the possession, manufacture, or distribution of youth pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material.

Initial Here \_\_\_\_\_

The reporting party shall also submit a written report to the S.Y.M. Executive Director within 24 hours of the first notification. The report shall include a narrative of the reported abuse or concerns, actions taken by the reporting party, witnesses to any inappropriate conduct, and any other relevant information. Finally, leaders, volunteers, and S.Y.M. members are encouraged to contact the S.A.M. National Administrator at 303-362-0575 to address any questions about this policy, its purpose, or the S.Y.M.'s expectations.

### **Responding to Reports of Abuse**

The S.Y.M. will respond promptly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. Information will be communicated to law enforcement authorities for investigation and shall be reviewed by the organization's directors. The alleged offender may be notified of the allegations and dealt with appropriately, after consideration given to guidance by law enforcement authorities or other professionals on appropriate notification measures.

Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily. If the accused member does not resign voluntarily, a majority vote during an executive session at any regular or special meeting of the S.A.M. National Council may suspend that member immediately until further notice. Such suspension may occur regardless of any civil or criminal finding relating to the alleged abuse because the continued presence of the accused person could damage the reputation of the organization and could be construed as being harmful to the participants.

An accused person who is later cleared of the charges may apply to be reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, however, and the S.A.M. makes no guarantee that he or she will be reinstated to his or her former role.

### **Mandatory Youth Protection Policies include:**

- Two-deep leadership (2 adults at all activities, at least one must be an active adult S.A.M. member)
- No one-on-one contact
- Respect of privacy
- Separate accommodations
- No secret organizations
- Appropriate attire
- Constructive discipline
- Youth leader training and supervision
- Member responsibility
- Parent Responsibility
- Assembly responsibilities
- Prohibition of hazing
- Prohibition of bullying

All S.Y.M. leaders and volunteers must comply with these policies. Violations of these policies put the S.A.M. and S.Y.M. at risk and will result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from participating in S.Y.M. activities and revocation of membership in the S.A.M.

### **Meeting the Needs of Child Abuse Victims**

At some point, an S.Y.M. member may confide in you or tell you that they have been abused.

- DON'T panic or overreact to the information disclosed by the child.
- DON'T criticize the child.
- DON'T promise not to tell anyone.
- DO listen intently and obey the no one-on-one contact policy.
- DO respect the child's privacy.
- DO make sure the child feels that he or she is not to blame.

Initial Here \_\_\_\_\_

### **Sexual Molestation by Adults**

Child molesters are the people who sexually abuse and exploit children. They are usually not strangers but are most often adults or other juveniles who were trusted and known to or by the children they victimize. The S.Y.M. Youth Protection policies are designed to help you detect inappropriate behavior of molesters.

There are several methods child molesters use to persuade children to give in to molestation. Although force is used in a few cases, molesters most often use a “grooming” process. The grooming process is usually focused on the child’s needs and vulnerabilities, but may often focus on the child’s parents as well. The molester might offer the parents free babysitting services or make friends with them to gain their trust to be alone with the child. Characteristically, the grooming process with the child will begin with seemingly innocent touching, such as nonsexual hugging, patting the back, and massaging the neck. The molester usually seeks a child who needs affection or attention and makes that child feel special by spending a lot of time with him or her and by giving gifts and money. The goal of this extra attention is to build the child’s (and parents’) trust.

When the molester senses that the child has been sufficiently conditioned to the physical contact and has an emotional bond, the physical contact becomes more intrusive. The contact may be under the guise of sex education or playing inappropriate games. It may prey on the child’s emerging curiosity about sexuality or allow the targeted victim taboo access, i.e., violating rules, drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes—all to create a “special relationship.” Photography is often used, perhaps under the ruse of having the child pose for pictures. Molesters are skilled at manipulating children by incorporating the child’s ambitions into their strategies. When an adult looks for opportunities to spend a lot of time alone with a child, attempts to isolate the child, or lavishes gifts and/or money on a child for no apparent reason, the child’s S.Y.M. leader, assistant leaders, and appointed volunteers need to intervene.

### **Sexual Molestation by Other Youth**

Approximately one-third of sexual molestation occurs at the hands of other children. Youth four to seven years older than the target victim might manipulate the younger child with coercion, size, or knowledge difference. If a child tells you about club initiations, gangs or the use of intimidation or coercion or bullying in which sexual activity is included, or if a child tells you about inappropriate sexual activity by other children, whether by deception, pressure, or force, this is a form of sexual abuse, and you need to take steps to stop the activity by reporting it to the S.Y.M. leader or assistant leader. This form of sexual misconduct is serious and cannot be ignored. Children who molest other children need professional help. This activity is not just “kids being kids.” It must be stopped and reported immediately to the S.Y.M. leader.

### **Youth Protection Strategies for Youth Members**

The Society of American Magicians has adopted age-appropriate personal safety messages for our youth. For all S.Y.M. members, we stress the 4 Rules for Personal Safety. For teenage S.Y.M. members, we teach the “3 R’s” of personal safety.

#### **The 4 Rules of Personal Safety**

Encourage all children to seek adult help in making personal safety decisions. The rules are as follows:

1. Check first with a parent or another trusted adult before changing plans or accepting anything from anyone.
2. Go with a friend in order to be safer and to have more fun. For S.Y.M. members, the friend should be a parent, another trusted adult or an older child approved by the parents.
3. It is my body, and I have the right to say “No” to anyone who tries to touch me anywhere that makes me feel uncomfortable or to do things that I think are wrong.
4. Tell a trusted adult whenever I am hurt, scared, or made to feel uncomfortable.

#### **3 R’s of Personal Safety**

- Recognize that anyone could be a child molester and be aware of situations that could lead to abuse.
- Resist advances made by child molesters to avoid being molested.
- Report molestation or attempted molestation to a trusted adult.

Initial Here \_\_\_\_\_

## **Bullying**

Bullying always involves one person or group trying to intimidate a target (victim)—often repeatedly. It might involve a physical act: hitting, kicking, biting, or shoving. It might also involve verbal or emotional abuse: teasing, put-downs, name-calling, hazing, hurtful joking, or intimidation. Bullies also sometimes use racial or sexual slurs or make threatening gestures. Bullying usually takes place out of the sight of adults and away from meetings. As a result, children frequently don't show how much bullying upsets them and often remain silent. The bully often threatens reprisals for "telling." The victim also may think adults won't or can't help him, or they may feel ashamed for not defending themselves. Bullying is not a "right of passage" or simply part of growing up. The fear and anxiety of bullying cause kids to avoid not only bullies but also the places where they hang out, including S.Y.M. activities. And far from "toughening up" targets of bullying, bullying can devastate their self-esteem and self-confidence. If the behavior continues, the victim may suffer long-lasting feelings of isolation and sadness—even depression. Bullying even affects groups, as other members might wonder if they will be the next targets. Bullying in all forms is prohibited in the S.Y.M.

The National Council of The Society of American Magicians has determined that various chat rooms and social media have been improperly utilized as outlets for cyberbullying, which targets magic, magicians, and youngsters who are interested in magic. The Society of American Magicians opposes and condemns cyberbullying in any and all forms, including but not limited to, all forms of hate speech, the use of words that attack physical appearance, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, or nationality.

## **Steps to Stop Bullying**

- S.Y.M. leaders and support volunteers should always be on the lookout for bullying behavior.
- Stop the actions and protect the target from danger.
- Identify the behavior in a calm tone and say that it's not OK.
- Speak with the target.
- Encourage the target to tell his or her parents and S.Y.M. leader.
- Tell the S.Y.M. leader or designated assistant leader of the bullying incident.

To reduce the likelihood of bullying in an S.Y.M. assembly meeting, create an anti-bullying culture throughout the meeting by always modeling mutual respect, kindness, and inclusion and never solving problems through aggression. S.Y.M. leaders, assistant leaders, and appointed volunteers should always model positive feedback and demonstrate how to connect constructively with one another.

## **Screening Adult Leaders**

All S.Y.M. leaders and assistant leaders who will be supervising youth shall undergo a complete background check at least every 3 years. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, multi-jurisdictional criminal record checks, an FBI fingerprint check, a National Sex Offender registry check, a driver's license check, and a Social Security trace. The ability to work or volunteer with S.Y.M. is contingent upon satisfactory results of those checks. The national office of the S.Y.M. will initiate and cover the cost of all screenings for active S.A.M. members. Non-member leaders and assistant leaders may be asked to pay the cost of their own screenings.

S.Y.M. leaders and assistant leaders will be required to participate in periodic youth protection training offered by the S.Y.M.. Adult volunteers and parents are also invited and encouraged to participate in these trainings.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ **have read and understand the S.Y.M. Youth Protection Policy.**  
Your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Initial Here \_\_\_\_\_

# Youth Protection/Membership Infraction Incident Information Form

(Allegations of abuse, violations of SYM guidelines or policies, inappropriate behavior by an SYM leader/parent/other)

Return the completed form to your SYM Leader and/or to the National SYM Director. The contact information is below.

Submitting this form (in hard copy or through the online reporting system) does not eliminate your responsibility to immediately stop the behavior at issue and to protect the youth nor your obligations under SYM's mandatory reporting of child abuse and any other obligations imposed by state law.

Incident date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date incident reported to: \_\_\_\_\_

SYM or SAM assembly location where incident occurred (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Incident address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Report type:  Suspicion/allegation of abuse  SYM policy or guideline violation(s)  
 Other inappropriate behavior by a SAM member/SYM leader/parent/other

**Details of incident:** What alleged victim/target/injured party said, what reporter observed/was told, similar or past incidents involving the victim(s)/target(s)/injured party (parties) or violator(s)/offenders(s), etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PERSON FILLING OUT THIS FORM:** \_\_\_\_\_

SYM/SAM position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): Primary \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSON WHO REPORTED THIS INCIDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

SYM/SAM position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): Primary \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alleged Victim/Target/Injured Party Information:**

Adult  Youth (*Under 18*) \_\_\_\_\_  
Member of SYM Assembly #, if known

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name DOB Age Gender

If a youth, parent(s) information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Alternate

Parent notified?  Yes  No If yes, by whom?: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alleged Policy Violator/Offender Information:**

Adult  Youth (*Under 18*)

SYM Role: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader, Parent, Member, Volunteer, Visitor Member of SYM and/or SAM Assembly #, if known

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name DOB Age Gender

If a youth, parent(s) information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Alternate

Parent notified?  Yes  No If yes, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reports:**

Was this incident reported to law enforcement?  Yes  No  I don't know

Name of law enforcement agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Date reported: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate time reported: \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, was appropriate children and family services/Child Protective Services agency notified?

Yes  No  I don't know

Name of agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Date reported: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate time reported: \_\_\_\_\_

**This incident form is confidential. Email, Fax, mail, or hand-deliver this completed form and any other supporting documents, photos, etc. that can be helpful to your SYM Leader and, or to the SYM Executive Director below:**

Dan Rodriguez, SYM Executive Director  
The Society of American Magicians  
P.O. Box 24226  
Denver, Colorado 80224  
Fax: 303-362-0424

# The Society of Young Magicians Voluntary Disclosure/Authorization/Release Form

Complete legibly and mail this form to:  
The Society of Young Magicians  
Attn: Jann Wherry Goodsell, Background Check Coordinator  
P.O. Box 24226, Denver Colorado 80224 | Fax: 303-362-0424 | manon@magicsam.com

*All information will remain confidential*

**ALL NEW and RE-APPLYING APPLICANTS Complete this Section**

Print Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Print AKA Stage Name (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Current S.A.M. Member?: YES | NO If YES, Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ S.A.M. Assembly #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address (Line 2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Driver License Number / State: \_\_\_\_\_

S.Y.M. Assembly # Involved With: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Role: Leader | Assistant Leader | Support Volunteer | Other \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address Since: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/Year)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address (Line 2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW APPLICANTS ONLY complete this section: Provide address information for the last (5) years. Use the back to provide any additional information, summarize your experience working with youth and include 3 references**

Previous Address From: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/Year)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address (Line 2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address From: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/Year)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address (Line 2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Experience Working with Youth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

REFERENCES. Please list those who are familiar with your character as it relates to working with youth. These will be checked when necessary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL NEW and RE-APPLYING APPLICANTS sign/date application statement and return to S.A.M. National Administrator**

**APPLICANT STATEMENT**

I understand that the information that I have provided may be verified, if necessary, by contacting persons or organizations named in this application or by contacting any person or organization that may have information concerning me or by conducting a criminal background check. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, multi-jurisdictional criminal record checks, an FBI fingerprint check, a National Sex Offender registry check, driver's license check, and a Social Security trace.

I hereby release and agree to hold harmless from liability any person or organization that provides information. I also agree to hold harmless The Society of Young Magicians.

In signing this application, I agree to comply with the Oath, Constitution, and Bylaws of The Society of American Magicians, Youth Protection Policy of the Society of Young Magicians, and agree to attend Leader training as required.

I affirm that the information I have given on this form is true and correct.

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

**ADDITIONAL NOTICES TO CALIFORNIA, MINNESOTA, OKLAHOMA, AND NEW YORK APPLICANTS**

**California:** Under California law, the consumer reports described above that The Society of Young Magicians will procure on you are defined as investigative consumer reports. The reports may include information on our character, general reputation, and personal characteristics.

Under section 1786.22 of the California Civil Code, you may view the file maintained on you by Intellicorp during normal business hours and with proper identification. You may also obtain a copy of this file upon submitting proper identification and paying the costs of duplication services, by appearing at Intellicorp's offices during normal business hours and on reasonable notice, or by certified mail upon making a written request. You may also receive a summary of the file by telephone. IntelliCorp will provide trained personnel to explain any information furnished to you and will provide a written explanation of any coded information. This written explanation will be provided whenever a file is provided to you for visual inspection. If you appear in person, you may be accompanied by one other person of your choosing, who must also furnish reasonable identification.

**California, Minnesota, and Oklahoma:** You have the right to request a free copy of any report procured on you. If you wish to receive a free copy, check below. \_\_\_\_\_ I request a free copy of any report procured on me.

**New York:** As explained above, a consumer report will be requested in connection with your application, and additional consumer reports may be requested during the course of your service with The Society of Young Magicians. You have the right, upon request, to be informed whether or not a consumer report was requested and, if a consumer report was requested, of the name and address of the consumer- reporting agency that furnished the consumer work.

# SUPPORT VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The following is a list of volunteer jobs that your S.Y.M. leader needs to fill in to operate a successful S.Y.M. assembly. By becoming a Support Volunteer of the Society of Young Magicians, we can make this an outstanding experience for every young member. Please place a check next to the area you would like to help and return it to the leader. If you have any questions on the responsibilities of any performance, please ask.

- SETUP/CLEANUP—Helping to set up and clean up.
- HISTORIAN—Collecting and preserving historical documents.
- TEACHING—Helping to demonstrate or assemble effects.
- NEWSLETTER—Preparing and mailing or emailing notices and newsletters.
- RECORDER—Maintaining necessary records and track attendance.
- CALLER—Organizing and staffing a telephone call or email list.
- LIBRARIAN—Responsible for checking out books, videos, and magic props.
- PICNIC—Helping to organize an annual S.Y.M. picnic.
- PERFORMANCE LOCATION—Finding locations for the S.Y.M. to perform.
- GREETER—Keeping the meetings moving by greeting late arrivals.
- DUES—Establishing and collecting local dues.
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



**S.Y.M. ASSEMBLY CHARTER APPLICATION**

We, the undersigned, being desirous of establishing an S.Y.M. Assembly of The Society of American Magicians in the city of: \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_

to be known as the \_\_\_\_\_ SYM Assembly, Number \_\_\_\_\_ (to be assigned), do respectfully request that a charter for such Assembly be granted.

Should the National Council of The Society of American Magicians see fit to grant this charter, we severally and individually pledge ourselves to conduct said Assembly in accordance with the Constitution, rules, and usage of the Society.

According to instructions received, we are forwarding herewith this Charter Application, duly executed proposition for membership, together with the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in full payment of the Charter fee of \$5.00.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thus having complied with the requirements, we ask you to grant this, our petition, with as little delay as may be reasonable.

S.Y.M. members sign below:

SIGNATURE	MEMBER #	SIGNATURE	MEMBER #
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

S.Y.M. Leader Profile and Background Check Submitted For:

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	S.A.M. MEMBER #
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Primary Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Leader/Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

*Send the completed charter application to: Manon Rodriguez - S.A.M. National Administrator  
PO Box 24226  
Denver, CO 80224*

**National Council Use Only:**

Charter granted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

# Society of Young Magicians

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Assembly Name and Number

**presents this award to**

---

Guest Lecturer

**for "Sharing Your Magic"  
and supporting our  
young magicians.**

---

Date

---

S. Y. M. President

---

S. Y. M. Leader

