

Welcome to the role of local admin for Sterling Volunteers—an important and often underestimated role. First off, we would like to say, Thank you! For taking on this responsibility. We understand it's not the most glamorous or exciting or enjoyable role in the world but, again, it is important.

Why is this role so important? You are a big gatekeeper to the physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual prosperity of your church or school. There are sexual, financial, and other types of predators that could get through undetected without you.

Just imagine what could happen without you. You get the notification that somebody who was well-trusted as a deacon in your church for 13 years just got caught doing something I don't want to even mention with a two-year-old in one of the families of your church. At first, you don't believe it—how could he? He was such a nice guy? Surely there is some kind of mistake. But the reality is that it did happen. Not once, but at least a couple of times with different families in your congregation.

Now this thing typically doesn't just catch the awareness of your church but the community. Then you have a city official talking about your beloved church—by name—on the news that this guy was living in one of your member's homes. Think this is just fiction to scare you? Wish I could say so, but it isn't. This literally happened to a fellow SDA church in Texas.

With just that alone, can you imagine what kind of emotional and spiritual and mental stress and battles this would put your church into? And more—this real example could have been easily

avoided. How? If they only would have appointed a local admin to make sure all significant volunteers went through the background check system appointed by the North American Division (NAD). That is correct. If this particular church would have only put this deacon through a simple, background check, they would have found out that before he took office as deacon, he was a known sex-offender—a child-molester—and would have cut all this off at the pass.

Thankfully, with this real-life case, the government agent, while talking about it on public news, tried to make it clear that the church is not the enemy here—but this isn't always the case. It is unknown if there were ever any charges pressed against this church, but this thing happens a lot more than you may realize. There are attorneys out there who make it their specialty to prosecute non-profit organizations (even if that organization in-no-wise condones this behavior), winning millions for families with victims of sex-abuse. This has bankrupted local organizations for the Boy Scouts and Catholic diocese, for example. Now imagine that on top of the emotional and mental strain coming from this public awareness of what happened at your church, the strain from litigation that could possibly be awarded millions.

In these types of cases, the courts will look at the organization to see if they did their due diligence in keeping this from happening. In other words, they will consider whether or not background checks were, in fact, done. Are you understanding better now why you are so important? This just doesn't go to stop sexual predators, but also possibly financial ones and more. Sterling Volunteers is one of the main tools we can use to protect our children and organizations.

Sterling Volunteers

Thank you for serving as a volunteer for the churches and/or schools in the Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

ADVENTIST CHILD PROTECTION SCREENING

Step 1 Go to www.ncsrisk.org/adventist and click the *First-Time Registrant* option.

The screenshot shows the Sterling Volunteers registration page. It prompts the user to create a user ID and password. It includes fields for 'Create a User ID' and 'Create a Password', and a 'Continue' button. There is also a link for 'Already have an account?' and a note about password requirements.

Step 2 First select the state and then Conference (Northern California).

Step 3 Create a user ID and a password you can easily remember. It's recommended to use your email address for your user name. This data will be case sensitive.

This screenshot is identical to the one in Step 1, showing the registration form with fields for user ID and password.

Step 4 Please provide the information requested on the screen: name, address, etc. (Note: Do not click the back button or your registration will be lost.)

Step 5 Select the primary location where you work or volunteer and click continue. If you work or volunteer in another location (perhaps at a school and a church), select "Yes" and then select a second location.

The screenshot shows a dropdown menu for selecting a location. Below the dropdown is a 'Continue' button. A note indicates that if the user is associated with multiple locations, they should select the primary location first.

Step 6 Select your role(s) within the organization. (Multiples may be selected here as well.)

Step 7 Read the instructions regarding the details of the online training and then proceed. Select *Click Here* to begin the online training. (Note: Training can take up to one hour.)

Step 8 Upon completion of your online training, you will be instructed to complete your Background Check. Don't forget this important step!

Step 9 You will be directed to complete the Sterling Volunteers Background Check by clicking on *Complete the Sterling Volunteers Background Check*. Sterling Volunteers will require you - as a volunteer - to claim your account using three pieces of information: email address, home zip code, and date of birth. You will then be redirected to the Sterling Volunteers platform to confirm the details required for the background check.

The screenshot shows a green box with the text: 'Background Check. You are required to have a background check. All of your information is prepared and ready to send to Verified Volunteers. Please click the button below when you are ready to submit your information.' There is a 'Submit Background Check' button.

Additional Background Check Information:

- Enter your full LEGAL name – not an alias or nickname
- If you do not wish to use your Social Security Number, check the box *No SSN*.
- The Fair Credit Reporting Act governs all background checks. The NCC is NOT checking your credit report. Use of the word "credit" references the law. You can print a copy of the consent form.

The screenshot shows a consent form with various fields for personal information, including name, address, date of birth, and social security number. There are checkboxes for 'I consent to a background check' and 'I consent to a credit report check'. A 'Submit' button is at the bottom.

Step 10 Review and complete the consent form.

This screenshot is identical to the one in Step 10, showing the consent form with fields for personal information and checkboxes for consent.

Step 11 Confirm the information is correct, and click *Submit*. Once the background check has been successfully processed, you will be notified via email.

Additional Details

Once the online training and the submission of your background check is completed, you can login to your account and click on "My Report" to view your online training and view your background check completion date. You can also access the "Update My Account" link at the top of the page to update your personal information.

Questions?

Please contact Sterling Volunteers at AdventistSupport@sterlingvolunteers.com or 1-855-326-1860 (toll free).

Sterling Volunteers

Gracias por servir como voluntario para la iglesia y/o escuela en la Conferencia Adventista del Alaska.

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LA REGISTRACIÓN EXAMEN DE PROTECCIÓN INFANTIL ADVENTISTA

Paso 1 Vaya a www.ncsrisk.org/adventist seleccione Español: Acceso o Inscricpion y haga clic en el botón de inscripción.

Paso 2 Primero seleccione el estado y luego la Conferencia (Norte de California).

Paso 3 Crea una identificación de usuario y una contraseña que pueda recordar fácilmente. Se recomienda utilizar su dirección de correo electrónico como su nombre de usuario.

Paso 4 Proporcione la información solicitada en la pantalla. (Nota: no haga clic en el botón de regresar o se perderá su registro.)

Paso 5 Seleccione el principal lugar de trabajo, servicio voluntario o lugar de oración. Si usted trabaja o es voluntario en otra ubicación, seleccione Si y seleccione la segunda ubicación.

Paso 6 Haga clic en el círculo verde para comenzar la capacitación en línea. Una vez completada, la última pantalla le permitirá imprimir un certificado. (Esta opción dependerá de su conferencia.)

Paso 7 Lea las sugerencias sobre los detalles de la capacitación en línea y luego proceda. Seleccione "Haga clic aquí" para comenzar la capacitación en línea (Nota: la capacitación puede tomar hasta una hora).

Paso 8 Una vez completada su capacitación en línea, se le indicará que complete su verificación de antecedentes. Complete los pasos del proceso de verificación de antecedentes (Nota: la verificación de antecedentes solo tomará de 5 a 10 minutos).

Paso 9 Desde allí, lo llevará automáticamente a una página con el formulario de consentimiento para que se lea y se complete cierta información, que se verá así: (según el paquete de verificación de antecedentes asociado a sus roles).

Información adicional de verificación de antecedentes:

- Ingrese su nombre LEGAL completo - No un alias o apodo
- Si usted no desea dar su seguro social haga, click No SSN
- La Ley de Informes Crediticios Justos (Fair Credit Reporting Act) realiza todas las verificaciones de antecedentes. NO revisamos su informe de crédito. El uso de la palabra "crédito" hace referencia a la ley. Puede imprimir una copia de ese formulario de consentimiento.

Paso 10 Revise y complete el formulario de consentimiento.

Paso 11 Confirme que la información sea correcta y haga clic en enviar. Una vez que la verificación de antecedentes haya sido procesada con éxito, recibirá una notificación por correo electrónico.

Detalles adicionales

Una vez completada la capacitación en línea y la presentación de su verificación de antecedentes, puede iniciar sesión en su cuenta y hacer clic en "Mi informe" para ver la capacitación en línea y ver la fecha de finalización de verificación de antecedentes. También puede acceder a "Actualizar mi cuenta" para actualizar su información personal.

¿Preguntas?

Por favor contáctenos por correo electrónico a AdventistSupport@sterlingvolunteers.com o al 1-855-326-1860 (sin costo)

GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS

working with Children and Youth

Because our society is filled with pain, problems, and litigation caused by the improper conduct of people working with children and youth, it is imperative that those working with children and youth at church have meaningful guidelines for conduct—to protect both themselves and those under their care. As a ministry volunteer, you want parents and guardians to feel comfortable and confident with you. Here are some practical guidelines:

- NEVER leave unattended a child or youth or group of children and youth for whom you are responsible. Provide adequate supervision at all times, no matter what.
- Always have at least one other adult (18 years or older) with you when ministering to children and youth. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should you allow yourself to be alone with one child or youth.
- Always ask a person's permission before touching him/her anywhere, even when responding to an injury or problem. This is especially true for any area that would normally be covered by a T-shirt and shorts. If an injury is within this area, make sure another adult works with you as you provide care.
- Physical and verbal attacks are inappropriate and should not ever be used as discipline. "Time out", or "sit-in-that-chair" may be helpful methods with children or youth.
- Kids need to be touched appropriately. Keep hugs brief and "shoulder-to-shoulder" or "side-to-side;" always keep your hands at (not below) the shoulder level. A caregiver kiss is to the forehead or cheek only, not elsewhere. For small children who like to sit on laps, encourage them to sit next to you.
- When taking small children to the bathroom, always take another adult along or leave doors open.
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse. Be aware of the legal requirements in your locality for reporting abuse. In nearly all places, a caregiver can be held legally responsible for failing to report suspected or actual abuse.
- Be loving, kind, firm, and always thoroughly professional as a caregiver. Working with children and youth at church is not only a privilege, it is also a deep responsibility that must be approached with the utmost care.



GUIDELINES for All volunteers

Guidelines for all Volunteers: As a volunteer, you should participate in orientation and training programs conducted by your church. Adventist Risk Management and the North American Division recommend the following for all volunteers. These serve as a protection to you and your ministry against charges of abuse:

- Volunteer screening—All volunteers must complete the screening process required by the NAD through Sterling Volunteers (ncsrisk.org/adventist) every three years.
- Six-month rule—Do not recruit a volunteer who has been a church member for less than six months.
- Two-person rule—Have at least two adults present at all times.
- Glass window rule—If the door to a room does not have glass in or around it, the door should be left open, so the volunteer is in full view.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS A VOLUNTEER FOR THE CHURCHES AND/OR SCHOOLS IN ALASKA

Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

6100 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 • info@alaskaconference.org • (907) 346-1004

THE LOCAL ADMIN

Your main job as a local admin is to make sure all qualifying volunteers go through the training and background checks (and keep it maintained). Your job is not to determine what happens to someone who refuses to go through the test. This is the job of the local elders and administration.

As a secondary role, you should also make sure that ALL volunteers understand the Volunteer Guidelines (and has a copy of)—a document that is included in this guide. Following these guidelines will prevent even the ability for anyone to make allegations if taken seriously (such as never, ever, ever be alone with the minor child of another church member).

QUALIFYING VOLUNTEERS

Not everyone who volunteers for something in the church is considered a “qualifying” volunteer in the instance of having to go through Sterling before serving. If someone wants to help clean up after a fellowship meal, you don’t have to insist they go through a background check first.

The NAD Working Policy defines a qualifying volunteer as follows:

“All volunteers referenced in this section include all adults, over the age of 18, involved in any capacity in children and youth ministries and activities, and all church ministry leaders and officers voted or appointed by the local church”

When in doubt, check them out!

THE PROCESS:

This is what happens when someone goes through the training and screening process:

1. They use the instructions provided by you with the handout included in this guide.

2. If there is nothing on their record, it shows up as **Eligible** on the “Compliance Report” and they are good to go
3. If there is something on their record, it comes to the conference (not you) in an email and administration will review and decide what the next step would be. Most of the time, it is only due to some minor traffic violation when they pick a role that has a driver MVR check attached to it (have them pick the “Driver” role if you need a DMV check done.)

However, on occasion, there are more serious things that do show up of which conference administration will contact the appropriate person, i.e., principal or pastor or head elder.

4. For traffic violations, the NAD Working Policy states:

“All drivers shall be properly licensed...The recommended age for drivers shall be twenty-one (21) years. A minimum allowable age of nineteen (19) years old...Drivers shall have an acceptable driving record during the previous three years with not more than two traffic citations and no accidents that results in a conviction of a misdemeanor or criminal charge while driving any vehicle”

5. Our screening cycle is every three years (disregard if any emails come from Sterling that say yearly). This means that **about every three years from the background check completion, these individuals will be notified automatically by Sterling to redo their training/background check.**

USING STERLING VOLUNTEERS

When you log in, you will notice two tabs now (instead of just one) that include Training and Administration. The Administration tab is where all the information is located for the local admin.



Update My Account | Logout

Northern California Conference

Administration for Local Administrators

Summary View: Background Checks

	Pending Review	Pending Submission	Expired	Expiring in 30 Days	Expiring in 60 Days
Employees	0	0	0	0	0
Volunteers	0	0	0	0	2

Compliant

- All: 0
- Training: 0
- Background Checks: 0
- Documents: 0

Not Compliant

- All: 0
- Training: 0
- Background Checks: 0
- Documents: 0



The information you need is in the “**Compliance Report**” under the Administration tab. Clicking on the Compliance Report tab will bring up information that looks like the following:

Administration

System Administration
Users
User Search

Reports
Compliance Report
Master Report
Location Report

Contact the Helpdesk

Administration for Local Administrators

Summary View

Pending Review

Employees

Volunteers

Compliance Report

Use this page to filter the Compliance Report.

First Name: [] Last Name: [] Training: [] BGC: [] Documents: []

Location: [] Role: [] Profile: [] Address: []

Training: [] BGC: [] Documents: []

Show BGC risk only

Print Filter | Refresh | Cancel | Export

First Name	Last Name	Role	Profile	Site	Active	Training	BGC Type	BGC	BGC Exp	Expires
Christina	Wright	Worship Assistant	Registered		Y	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	Expires
Shari	Stiller	Teacher Sabbath Sch	Registered		Y	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	Expires
Debra	Stapp	Teacher Sabbath Sch	Registered		Y	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	Expires
John	Conley	Chapman Aide	Registered		Y	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	Expires
Rebecca	Smith	Children Ministry	Registered		Y	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	Expires
Bill	Collins	Book Review/Enrollment	Registered		Y	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	Expires
Sharon	Shannon	Enrollment/Accounts	Registered		Y	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	07/07/2019	Expires

The result is a list of data that you can filter in all sorts of ways. You can filter by Roles, BGC Expire Dates, etc. If you click on an individual’s name, it will bring you to their specific information.

You can now look up their contact, BGC (background check) and training info.

Administration

System Administration
Users
User Search

Reports
Compliance Report
Master Report
Location Report

Contact the Helpdesk

Administration for Local Administrators

Summary View

Pending Review

Employees

Volunteers

General | **Contact Info** | **Background Check** | **Required Documents** | **Training**

User ID: []

Password: []

Salutation: []

First Name: []

Middle Name: []

Last Name: []

Email: [] [Email account info](#)

Primary Location: Orville SDA Church

Roles:

Primary Role	Role	Location	Start	End
Active	Teacher Sabbath Sch	Orville SDA Church		

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Show Inactive

= End or delete role | Ending all roles does not deactivate the account

Title or Function: []

Department: []

Contact w/ Minors?: []

Supervisor or Manager?: []

Account status: Active

Service Began: 07/07/2019

Service Ended: []

Last Login: 07/07/2019

Notes: []

THE COMPLIANCE REPORT

Compliance Report

Use this page to filter the Compliance report.

First Name: [] Last Name: [] Training BGC Documents
 Expiring Start: []
 Location: [- All -] Role: [- All -] Profile: [- All -] Active: [- All -] Expiring End: []
 Training: [- Any -] BGC: [- Any -] Documents: [- Any -]
 Show ONE role only

Run / Filter Reset Filters Cancel Export

	First Name	Last Name	Role	Profile	Site	Active	Training	Training Exp.	BGC Type	BGC	BGC Exp.	Status
1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Teacher-Sabbath Sch	Registrant		Y						
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Bible Worker (Volunteer)	Registrant		Y	11/02/2018	11/03/2021		11/02/2018	11/03/2021	Eligible
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Bible Worker (Volunteer)	Registrant		N	11/04/2018	11/05/2021		11/04/2018	11/05/2021	Eligible
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Elder	Registrant		Y	04/23/2018	04/23/2021		04/23/2018	04/23/2021	Eligible
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Pathfinders	Registrant		Y	09/22/2017	09/22/2020		09/22/2017	09/22/2020	Eligible
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Office (Volunteer)	Registrant		Y	10/11/2019	10/11/2022		10/11/2019	10/11/2022	Eligible

The compliance report provides you with all the pertinent info to fulfill your job as a local admin:

1. Who has at least started the process
2. Who has finished the process
3. The dates of finishing their training and background check
4. The expiration dates for their checks/training
5. The all-important “Status”

WHAT DOES MEAN

Let’s start with the most important—the “Status.” There are three different types of options for the Status:

1. **Eligible** = Good to go! ☺
2. **Ineligible** = Rare. Means they are NOT to be used as a qualifying volunteer in any wise. The entity will have been notified prior to this. Sometimes it means that an entity has been notified and gotten no response so this should get its attention.
3. **Eligible-[some type of restriction]** = This means they are eligible for everything except for the one thing listed. Most common is “Eligible Non-Driver”. Usually

means they fell outside of the NAD

guidelines for a driver.

Always remember that nothing is irreversible. This status can be changed by us in a very short time. If any questions/concerns, simply contact us.

OTHER INDICATORS

- **An exclamation point** means they have started, but not finished the process
- **Three figures in the blank column** means the volunteer has multiple roles

FAQS/TROUBLESHOOTING

1. I want to switch/add my location(s) to make my info available for other schools/entities:

- Email the conference at info@alaskaconference.org with the request

2. Does it cost anything to the entity?

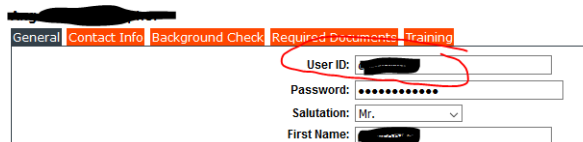
- Historically, only the amount that pertained strictly to the DMV (driver) portion of the check was billed to the entities (which is minimal—usually \$3/individual). However, this is subject to change. Bottom line, the most entities will ever have to pay is a fraction of the actual cost. The Alaska Conference currently absorbs the vast majority of the costs associated with our background checks. We do not wish our entities to be scared to use this service due to any financial worries.

3. Will my information be secure if I go through the background check?

- This question is usually asked by those who do not understand the reality of information availability currently in the world. The short answer: There will be no significant increase in risk to anyone's info who goes through the process. If you ever have been an employee, applied for a credit card, etc, then your information is already at some type of risk. Even the Pentagon is not foolproof from data breaches. This is the reality in which we live

4. It doesn't accept my login info?

- This is something you may come across from time to time. There may be a number of solutions:
 - a. Make sure they are trying to log in to the correct portal. It has happened where folks go trying to google Sterling Volunteers and they end up at the wrong website (www.sterlingvolunteers.com). If they try to log into this website, they will meet with utter defeat every single time. Make sure they are trying to log into www.ncsrisk.org
 - b. Make sure they are using their actual "User ID" instead of their email (unless they actually put their email as their User ID. You, as the local admin, have the ability to click on their name and go into their General info to see their User ID



The image shows a screenshot of a web application's user login interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with five tabs: "General", "Contact Info", "Background Check", "Required Documents", and "Training". Below the menu, there is a login form with the following fields: "User ID:" (with a red circle around the input field), "Password:" (with a masked password of ten dots), "Salutation:" (with a dropdown menu showing "Mr."), and "First Name:" (with a masked name). The "User ID" field is highlighted with a red circle, indicating it is the focus of the troubleshooting advice.

c. The majority of the time: Browser issues. For this, there are two main solutions:

- I. Make sure they ARE NOT using Internet Explorer. This browser is notorious for not working well with Sterling (and many other things for that instance). Not so sure about the newer Edge but it may work fine. For the PC, use either Firefox or Google Chrome
- II. Cache. If everything else is correct (correct web address, correct User ID, correct browser), then it may just be that the browser cache needs to be cleared. If anyone doesn't know how to do this, all it takes is a simple search of "Firefox [whatever web browser] clear cache" and you will find step-by- step instructions

5. Will it negatively affect my credit score if I consent to the statement about credit on the background check?

- No. This will not actually look up your credit score. Rather, it is used as a way to verify your identity.

6. What about those that come from other conferences and have already gone through Sterling?

- See #1

7. What about those who have moved away but still have our location?

- This is like to #1 and #6. It doesn't hurt anything to have that extra person on your list, but if you prefer, the conference can erase the location

TIPS FROM FREQUENT USERS

- If you want to keep track of who has done something since the previous time for renewals, at the start, run a list by expire date, then, on occasion, run it again and see who doesn't show up
- Remember, when the nominating committee appoints new leaders in the church, you need to be on it. You need to keep a list of all the new leaders on the nominating list so you can keep track of who needs to go through the process
- Remember that folks need to be reminded that if they change their email addresses, they need to update their accounts or they will NOT get renewal emails (by clicking up at the top right on "Update My Account")

FINAL THOUGHTS

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the conference. There are sometimes—when not all the instructions are followed—that a background check prompt will not come up

There are some problems, however, that can only be solved by Sterling themselves. Email is probably the best way to reach them: AdventistSupport@sterlingvolunteers.com.

If you have any suggestions for this guide, please let us know. And, again, we thank you so much for all that you are doing for the health of our institutions and safety of our most precious assets—our children.