

2026 JOI Summit Protection of Minors Policy

Requirements for the Protection of Minors Policy

Saint Louis University requires all adults working directly with minors and staying on campus to have a criminal background check prior to the event. Optimist International must provide the University with the list of adult participants (staff, chaperones, and volunteers) cleared to work with minors by **June 16, 2026**.

Adult participants having direct contact with minors (student participants) must have successfully undergone a criminal records check within the previous twenty-four (24) months (between June 2024 and June 2026). If you have already submitted your background check from 2024-2026, you do not need to submit again. The criminal records check shall include, at minimum, **fingerprint checks** performed by an authorized law enforcement agency in the state/province where the person resides and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as a check of the National Sex Offender Registry.

A clear background check must be submitted to Optimist International by **June 16, 2026**. (For guidance or additional information, please contact the Junior Optimist Department at junioroptimist@optimist.org or 314-881-1318. Additionally, for adult volunteers and chaperones from outside the United States, similar standards apply. Please contact the Junior Optimist Department for details.

Any records check listing a conviction for child abuse or endangerment, a violent or sex-related offense, or pending charges for such offenses shall serve to disqualify persons from participating in Program activities that will take place on Saint Louis University premises.

Steps: Identity History Summary

For a fee, the FBI can provide individuals with an Identity History Summary, often referred to as a criminal history or “rap sheet”—listing certain information taken from fingerprint submissions kept by the FBI and related to arrests and, in some instances, federal employment, naturalization, or military service.

If the fingerprint submissions are related to an arrest, the Identity History Summary includes the name of the agency that submitted the fingerprints to the FBI, the date of the arrest, the arrest charge, and the disposition of the arrest, if known. All arrest information included in an Identity History Summary is obtained from fingerprint submissions, disposition reports, and other information submitted by authorized criminal justice agencies.

1. Visit the FBI website, specifically this section:
<https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/identity-history-summary-checks>
2. The fastest option is to submit your request online at <https://www.edo.cjis.gov> and follow the instructions.
Cost: Approx. \$18
3. Once you complete the request and confirm via email, you will receive confirmation and a code to take to a participating U.S. Post Office location for digital fingerprints.
Approx. Cost: \$50 (If you already have a fingerprint card, you may bypass this step)
Current Processing Time for Online Requests:
 - Within 48 hours of visiting a United States Post Office location for electronic fingerprints
 - Approximately 10 days after the FBI receives your mailed fingerprint card
4. All chaperones will be checked using the National Sex Offender Public Website: <https://www.nsopw.gov/>
5. You may submit your report via email directly to junioroptimist@optimist.org with **“Privileged and Confidential”** in the subject line.