

## Safe-Environment Training Programs for 9-12 Grade Students

Each child in grades 9-12 at diocesan parishes and schools is required to receive safe-environment training. Every effort must be made to ascertain that the maximum number of students participate in one of the teen programs. Parents must be notified prior to their child attending training.

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year there has been a change to which programs may be used. The diocese has discontinued the use of *Formation in Christian Chastity* (Diocese of Harrisburg) and *Called to Protect* (Praesidium) as approved safe environment programs to meet the Diocesan annual safe environment training requirement. Both programs are no longer being supported or updated by the respective organizations and are outdated. The safe environment training requirement has also been expanded for all grades 1-12.

The Diocese will continue using the following two programs as options:

- Circle of Grace (grades 1-12), which provides unique lessons for every grade in English and Spanish and a methodology for the family group model. Because this is a licensed program, you must complete training hosted by OPCYP.
- Tricked (high school program)

You must schedule a day for teens in youth ministry programs to receive this training. Additionally, one make-up day is required to be offered during ***regularly scheduled youth ministry events*** for youth unable to attend on the scheduled day. Safe environment training must be completed by the last Friday of December each year and the reporting forms are due to OPCYP by January 15, each year.

The OPCYP has published a Child/Youth Safe-Environment Program Technical Assistance Guide (TAG) to assist your parish in the implementation of the program. An electronic version of the TAG may be found online under Additional Resources at

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/child-protection/additional-resources/>

More information on the training programs is available online at

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/Youth-Training-Programs/>

After consulting your parish liaison and the TAG please contact the Education Program Specialist (703-841-3847 ext. 886 or email [Alexander.Veliz@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:Alexander.Veliz@arlingtondiocese.org)) with additional questions about safe-environment training for 9-12 grade students.