

Code of Conduct for Shepherd of the Valley Youth and Family Ministry

We are pleased to have you as a participant in our Youth and Family Ministry! Whether you are a member of Shepherd of the Valley or a guest, our youth and family ministry policy of conduct is based on the expectation that we will conduct ourselves in a Christian manner during all activities and classroom settings (i.e. riding in vehicles, at restaurants, retreats, service projects, etc.). All Youth and Family participant both students and adults are present to develop and explore a growing relationship with Jesus and one another. As such we will enter into a covenant together for:

In accordance with this covenant I commit to:

1. **RESPECT LEADERS:** Listen to and cooperate with the youth and family director and all adult leaders at all times.
2. **RESPECT THE FACILITY:** wherever we might be for the Ministry/Event. All students that are involved in the act of breaking something will be expected to repair/replace the damaged item(s) at their expense.
3. **RESPECT EACH PERSON and their property. Bullying will NOT be tolerated under any circumstances.** We are committed to a safe physical, emotional and relational environment for all students, youth group members, employees, volunteers and visitors. This means any intentional written, verbal, or physical act that:
 - Physically harms a student or damages the student's property
 - Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, youth and family ministry
 - Is severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening environment
 - Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the ministry or event.
4. **RESPECT BOUNDARIES**
 - Public Displays of Affection (PDA) such as kissing, cuddling, or any action sexual in nature, etc. are NOT permitted during any Youth and Family Ministry activity or event. God created relationships, romantic love, and sex. They are not at all evil and all have their place. However, it is not at Youth and Family Ministry event. The Youth and Family Director and Youth Ministry Volunteer Leadership will come to your wedding one day but they do not need to be the 'be-appropriate police' during events. If your girlfriend/boyfriend is present at an event please let them know the expectations beforehand.
 - The following aren't permitted on any Youth and Family Ministry event: profanity, alcohol, illegal substances, pornography, and weapons. Note: if prescription medication is needed, please let the youth and family director know.
 - Wear modest, appropriate clothing at all times. Use good judgment. You will be asked to change if one of the leaders feels you are not dressed appropriately.
 - No student will leave the supervisory presence of the youth ministry staff without permission – i.e. leaving the youth meeting, leaving the church, leaving the group during trips, etc. Failure to comply can jeopardize the safety of yourself, others, leaders, or the group.

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TECHNOLOGY (cell phones, iPods, Tablets, Laptops) is permitted on retreats, events but are the responsibility of the student. Shepherd of the Valley assumes no responsibility for these items. During group times all technology will be stored. If used for any inappropriate activities, the technology will be confiscated for the remainder of the event and returned to the parent/guardian of the student at the end of the event.

Failure to comply with our Statement of Conduct:

STEP ONE:

When behavior contrary to our statement of conduct first occurs, the adult observing the behavior, or to whom the behavior is reported, shall address the person(s) responsible with a clear request that the behavior be stopped, changed, or avoided. The adult must use judgment as to whether or not the individual(s) knowingly behaved in a manner inconsistent with our youth group statement of conduct. The severity of the problem behavior may require that this step be bypassed and the next step be applied.

STEP TWO:

If another or the same behavior contrary to our statement occurs involving the same person(s) above, *especially when it is considered to be occurring in a destructive, attention-getting or belligerent fashion*, then a second warning will be given and the parent/guardian will be notified by the Youth and Family Director leader and advised of the situation regarding their child.

STEP THREE:

Should there be a third problem behavior contrary to our Statement of Conduct identified, the parent(s) will be called immediately and asked to come and get their youth. A conference will be scheduled for the Youth and Family Director, Pastor, parent/guardian and the student involved to resolve the conflict. The church leadership reserves the right to send home person(s) who are intentionally oppositional or repeatedly refuse to follow the Statement of Conduct policy mentioned above for any Church or Youth event.

A student found to be unsafe/ in compliant can be sent home at any point if the Youth and Family Director deems it necessary for the safety and/or order of an event. This will be at the parent/guardian's expense

By signing below: I understand the Covenant of Conduct as outlined. I will abide by the Covenant of Conduct and agree to follow the consequences of my actions if I do not comply.

Student Name Printed

Parent or Guardian Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature