

***OFFICIAL*** Guidelines for the  
Presbyterian Church of the Covenant Youth Ministry  
(concerning Youth Group and retreats)

- 1) No drugs (alcohol is a drug), no weapons or fireworks.
- 2) No members of the opposite sex may be behind closed doors unsupervised at any time. No sexual activity will be permitted.
- 3) Only one person under a blanket, sleeping bag, or the like there of, at a time. (excluding married couples)
- 4) Electronics (including cell phones) will be limited to appropriate times. They are not allowed during a talk or discussion. There maybe times when electronics will not be allowed at all. The leadership reserves the right to request to hold any electronic device until the end of youth group and/or event, if it is felt that the electronic device is a distraction.
- 5) A person must be twenty one (21) years or older before they are allowed to drive for a youth ministry event. A person must be twenty five (25) years old or older before they are allowed to drive a vehicle with more than 8 passengers, including the driver.
- 6) Friends should attend at least three (3) Youth Group meetings before they are allowed to attend an overnight, out of town event.
- 7) If a youth must be late for an overnight event our curfew will be 12:00 a.m. (midnight), with confirmation from the parent or legal guardian and pre approval from the Director of Youth Ministries.
- 8) Only one friend per activity or meeting.
- 9) The fall youth/family BBQ will be the beginning of the Youth Ministry year. At this time sixth (6th) graders will be welcomed in and graduating seniors will be ushered out.
- 10) Concerning movies: We will make every effort to communicate to parents which movie(s) we plan on seeing. Care will be taken when selecting movies for viewing during youth group events. Every effort will be made to either preview the movie and/or check the movie out through a Christian web site that screens movies and/or secure reviews from parents of youth. The Director of Youth Ministries and/or the VYMs will use their discretion in selecting movies. Movies may be "P.G. 13" for Middle School, "R" for High School, "P.G. 13 for combined events. We will provide a time after every movie to discuss what we have just seen.
- 11) Seat belts are to be worn at all times when traveling to and from any youth activity.\
- 12) All retreat /trip deposits are to be non-refundable and due on or before the registration deadline. The balance will be due before leaving for the event. If a youth does not have his/her money in, they will not be allowed to attend the event.

- 13) It is expected that youth participating in activities sponsored by Presbyterian Church of the Covenant will have the responsibility of notifying their parents and the VYMs if transportation is sought from other than parents, youth or siblings.  
\*Parents, it is your responsibility for knowing how your youth are transported to and from these activities.
- 14) Any youth wishing to attend a Youth Group function that is off church property must have the following current and completed forms; medical release, covenant and permission. It is the responsibility of the youth and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) to make sure that these forms are current and in. Any youth that does not have all of these forms turned in will not be permitted to attend that Youth Group function. The Director of Youth Ministries and the VYMs are not responsible for caring for a youth that is dropped off and left for an event that they can not attend due to not having the proper forms in.
- 15) There will be two deadlines for all retreats and trips. The first deadline is an initial deadline. This deadline will be no less than two weeks before the final deadline, which is the second deadline. All scholarship forms are due on or before the initial deadline. No scholarship forms will be accepted after the initial deadline. There will be a \$10.00 additional fee for any registrations turned in after the initial deadline. No registrations can or will be accepted after the final deadline, without the approval of the Director of Youth Ministries, pending space availability and cost impact.
- 16) All youth must remain in the immediate vicinity of the Youth Group meeting or event. If for any reason, a youth needs to leave this vicinity, they must have a VYM and at least one other person with them at all times. The immediate vicinity will be determined by the Director of Youth Ministries or the VYM in charge.

## Disciplinary Actions

1. Violation of rules numbers one (1) and two (2) will result in the immediate dismissal from the activity or event. The youth will be sent home immediately at the parent(s) or legal guardians expense.
2. Violation of any other rules will result in the following action:
  - 1) first offense gets a warning
  - 2) second offense the youth will be assigned to a VYM for the remainder of the activity or event. This means the youth gives up his/her rights and privileges for that day and gives the VYM the right to make decisions for them.
  - 3) third offense results in the immediate dismissal from the activity of event. The youth will be sent home immediately at the parent(s) or legal guardians expense.

**The leadership team reserves the right to make judgments concerning all of the above rules and to make fair and reasonable disciplinary decisions according to the severity of an infraction. The above rules may also be revised to suit the location and activity.**