



## YOUTH PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

### SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

- ❖ Everyone- regardless of race, religion, culture, gender, sexual identity and abilities- will be treated with respect and consideration.
- ❖ Participants shall not use profanity, tobacco products, alcohol, or illegal substances during the entire youth activity.
- ❖ Participants shall not bring weapons of any sort.
- ❖ Youth will be chaperoned at all times. They are not allowed to go off alone. If a youth does request 'alone time', they must stay within sight of the chaperones.
- ❖ At no time, should an adult be one on one in a closed, private space with anyone under the age of 18- this includes vehicles.
- ❖ If adult leaders need to meet with a youth outside of youth group, meet in a public place and be sure a parent(s)/guardian(s) is informed.
- ❖ Adults do not share a bed with a person of either gender under the age of 18. Excluded are parents of his/her own child(ren).
- ❖ Where group (not individualized) shower facilities are provided, adults will not bathe at the same time as youth.
- ❖ All adult volunteers who work with persons under the age of 18 must undergo a criminal background check.

### CELL PHONES & VIDEO GAMES

- ❖ Video games are not allowed.
- ❖ Cell phones are not to be used except with the permission of an adult leader, in case of an emergency, to take pictures and videos, or during a time designated by youth leader (ie free time).
- ❖ If you are seen using a phone without permission, it will be confiscated and given back at the end of the activity/retreat or at the Youth Director's discretion.

### CAR RIDE

- ❖ All drivers must be 18 or over (unless in case of emergency).
- ❖ Drivers must drive safely and obey traffic laws.
- ❖ Everyone must wear a seatbelt at all times.
- ❖ Youth can play music for the car, as long as it's appropriate.
- ❖ Headphones are not allowed during car rides to encourage conversation.

### PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION (PDA):

Excessive displays of affection, even platonic, beyond occasional hugs or holding hands are not appropriate. PDA such as kissing, 'fondling', cuddling, or sitting on each other's laps are not allowed.

### ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS FOR ADULT LEADERS

- ❖ To provide a safe and respectful environment for all participants.
- ❖ To be friendly, flexible, and supportive- try to stay calm if plans change.
- ❖ To provide support during activities and help transition from one activity to another.
- ❖ To be present and available for youth to talk to, looking for opportunities to connect with them and facilitate connections between youth.
- ❖ To offer insights and perspectives during discussions.
- ❖ **Work Leaders:** To demonstrate, delegate, and support- making sure youth know what to do, are involving them in the work, and supporting the work in whatever way you can.

### ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS FOR JR. LEADERS

- ❖ To assist the adult leaders in ALL of the above.
- ❖ To help create team cohesion by hanging out with the kids- trying to involve as many kids into the activities as you can. Paying special attention to social dynamics; make a special effort to include youth who seem to be on the 'outside' of the circle.
- ❖ To model the behavior we want to see from the youth including on the work site and during activities.
- ❖ This service retreat is for you too, and while there is not a huge age gap between you and the youth, remember you are a leader and they will look to you.

### DISCIPLINE

Unless already instructed, situations of inappropriate behavior should be handled by the Youth Director. Inform the Youth Director as soon as possible about the situation. If there is immediate action necessary, please use your discretion.

### CONTINGENCY

If for some reason something is beyond your comfort level of dealing with or an emergency call the Youth Director immediately at 608-960-0535.