

Covenant of Behavior

Welcome and “thank you” for your participation in the Grace Lutheran Church Youth Group! We are glad you’re here! We want everyone who attends an event with us to have an AWESOME experience. We want you to be safe, and we want you to experience God with your friends. We also want Youth Group to be a place of unity, compassion, inclusion, and respect. By participating in Youth Group activities, you are placing your trust in the Leadership Team and each other. Furthermore, you are signifying your desire to do your part in making this the absolute best experience possible. To that end, we have a few short rules of conduct that we must all agree to follow. There aren’t many, but they are important.

RESPECT: It all begins with respect! Respect, in general, cannot be demanded nor coerced, it must be earned. If we begin with this in mind, rules of behavior become unnecessary. Our words, actions, and attitudes reflect our level of respect. Everything matters! We show our respect in the following categories...

- **RESPECT GOD:** The world around us is watching and listening. How can we claim to be followers of Christ if we behave contrary to our profession of faith?
- **RESPECT OUR FAMILY:** Our behavior reflects our upbringing. We wish to honor our family, not dishonor them. See Commandment #4
- **RESPECT EACH OTHER:** It’s the Golden Rule you learned in kindergarten; treat others in the manner you wish to be treated.
- **RESPECT LEADERS:** While under our supervision, the Adult Leaders act as your surrogate parents, both figuratively and legally. Please show them the same manner of respect as you would if Momma was looking over your shoulder. Occasionally, Student Leaders will be responsible for aspects of an event or activity. Please afford them the same level of respect; especially if you wish to someday be a member of Student Leadership.
- **RESPECT PROPERTY:** Whether it’s a hotel room, the van, or a piece of playground equipment, please treat property as if you were the owner and had to cover the costs of repair or replacement.
- **RESPECT SCHEDULE:** Please remember that you are not the only person attending this event. We are here for a reason. Granted, there will be activities that you wish we didn’t have to attend. Just remember that the boring, challenging, and mundane activities will be countered by some AWESOMENESS! Please respect the schedule by being on time and prepared.

If we can all abide by these simple rules of RESPECT outlined above, discipline issues will not hinder the Youth Group’s enjoyment of events or activities.

Consequences

Should disciplinary measures be required, the Leadership Team shall determine the proper course of action following the guidelines stated below. These steps (Strikes) will be followed in order unless the severity of the offence is deemed to warrant more severe repercussions.

SPECIAL NOTE: Any illegal activity shall be immediately reported to the local Law Enforcement agency for prosecution.

FIRST OFFENCE: Timeout

Act like a child, get treated like a child. Student will be removed from the activity or area and be remanded by Adult Leader for a period of time deemed appropriate to the offence. Actions that warrant this response might include surly attitude, physical/verbal altercation, and unwillingness to participate or disruptive behavior.

SECOND OFFENCE: House Arrest

Offender will be escorted to their hotel room by a member of the Adult Leadership Team. There they will remain seated at the foot of the bed with the door propped open and the Adult in the hallway for the remainder of the day's activities. No electronic devices or reading materials will be allowed for the duration of House Arrest.

*NOTE: This is the default consequence for being found outside the hotel room after curfew (12:00 midnight) without an Adult escort.

THIRD OFFENCE: Expulsion

Upon committing a third offence or, committing so egregious an offence that the Leadership Team agrees such action is necessary, the offender's parents will be immediately contacted, and travel arrangements will be made to return the student home. Costs incurred will be the sole responsibility of the parents/caregivers of the student. A member of the Adult Leadership Team will escort the student to the airport, bus, or train station and see them safely aboard.

TARDINESS: If we must wait for you because you are tardy, we expect to be entertained when you arrive. Upon arrival, you will need to give us your BEST rendition of "I'm a Little Teapot" complete with choreography.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by these Rules of Conduct.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Date