

SACRED HEART YOUTH MINISTRY

Teen Code of Conduct

Youth Participants will

- Show Christian consideration, sensitivity and respect to everyone and to the property around them through language, dress and behavior
- Attend all scheduled activities, arriving promptly and staying for the entire event
- Refrain from inappropriate touching and verbal harassment
- Respect other persons and/or property
- Adhere to chaperones directions
- Be aware of noise levels in lobbies, hallways and sleeping areas (if applicable), especially later in the evening
- Report problems of any kind to a trusted adult

Youth Participants will not

- Possess weapons of any kind
- Purchase, possess, consume or distribute alcohol or illegal drugs
- Engage in any form of sexual activity or peer sexual harassment or verbal harassment
- Purchase, download, possess, view or distribute pornography
- Visit or gather in hotel rooms with the opposite gender
- Act in any manner that could result in injury or property damage

Youth participants will be aware of what are and are not appropriate behaviors in terms of relationships between adults and youth, with their peers. The following behaviors are generally considered **appropriate** at an event

- Handshakes
- High-fives and hand slapping side hugs
- Shoulder to shoulder or "temple" hugs
- Praise for a job well done (not regarding physical attributes)
- Arms around shoulders Holding hands while walking with younger minors
- Sitting beside young minors
- Kneeling or bending down for hugs with younger minors
- Holding hands during prayer
- Pats on the head (when culturally appropriate)
- Touching hands, faces (usually in context of a blessing), shoulders and arms of minors, arms around shoulders

The following behaviors are generally considered **inappropriate** at an event

- Kisses on the mouth
- Inappropriate or lengthy embraces
- Touching knees or legs of other participants
- Wrestling with others
- Being in or on a bed with an adult
- Holding anyone on the lap who is capable of sitting on their own

- Any type of massage given by adult to minor
- Any form of unwanted affection or peer sexual harassment
- Piggyback rides
- Any type of massage given by minor to adult or another minor
- Touching bottom, chests or genital areas
- Compliments or put downs that relate to physique or body development
- Going to an isolated area away from the group, or being taken to an isolated area by an adult or peer
- Showing affection in isolated areas of a facility such as bedrooms, restrooms, bathrooms, closets, staff-only areas or other private rooms

Youth and parents understand that failure to agree to and abide by the Diocesan Youth Code of Conduct will bar youth from participation in any diocesan/parish sponsored youth event.

Youth Participant Sanctions for Non-Compliance

Group leaders, chaperones and/or parents bear the responsibility for sharing this information with youth participants. Failure to do so does not excuse any inappropriate behavior on the part of youth participants nor does it affect the Diocese of Metuchen's ability to levy sanctions.

If a young person violates the Diocesan Code of Conduct, any or all the following sanctions may be implemented:

1. Reporting of misconduct to local authorities, if the violation in any way violates local ordinance or laws.
2. Dismissal of the youth from the diocesan event or program by requesting that the group leader remove the youth from the event (whereby it would become the responsibility of the group leader/chaperone/parent to ensure timely, accompanied, and safe transportation home).