

**Diocese of Shreveport**  
**ANNUAL CODE OF CONDUCT, EXPECTATIONS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS AND DRESS CODE**

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify personal behavior that is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the Diocese of Shreveport. The items within the Code are based upon performance and are designed to protect the welfare of participants and the retreat for future generations. Registration in the event indicates personal acceptance of the Code of Conduct. Any student sent home for violation of this Code will be at the expense of parent or guardian.

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**CODE OF CONDUCT OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (Youth and Adults/Chaperones)**

1. All participants share the responsibility for their actions equally when violations of the Code are witnessed. Those who choose to be present when a violation occurs shall, by their own choice, be considered participants in the violation. In relation to this Code, there are no "innocent bystanders."
2. No participant shall leave the retreat unless with the approval of his/her adult leader AND parental approval. The delegate must be picked up and returned by a parent or legal guardian.
3. Each participant is legally and financially liable for the removal, defacing, or willful damage to public or private property. Any act of vandalism, destruction of property, or misuse of a facility may be a crime and will be treated as a potential criminal violation.
4. The use of tobacco products, use of/possession of alcoholic beverages, non-prescription drugs, or any illegal drugs is forbidden.
5. Name Badges/Credentials shall be worn ONLY by the individual whose name is on the badge/credential. **BADGE SWITCHING OR SHARING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Participants will wear their assigned badges at all times during the event. Credentials are to be worn above the waist and must be visible. ONLY Parish/school group leaders may request replacement credentials.
8. Each participant shall conduct himself/herself in an orderly and responsible manner before, during, and after all functions. Your personal behavior reflects upon the quality of the program, one's parish, the Diocese of Shreveport, and one's self.
9. Weapons of any kind and items that could cause injury or damage to participants and/or property are strictly forbidden.

**EXPECTATIONS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS - "Clean, Casual, and Respectable"**

- ☉ **Attend all Sessions**
- ☉ **Cell phones** are to be turned off during the sessions. Please keep calls to a minimum at all other times.
- ☉ **Valuables** should not be brought to the retreat. Lost or stolen items are not the responsibility of the retreat staff, or the adult chaperones. We do encourage you to report any theft to the retreat staff if you witness such an act.
- ☉ There should be no inappropriate public displays of affection (PDA's).
- ☉ No profanity.

## Dress & Appearance Vision for Diocesan Youth Ministry Events

Your body is God's sacred creation. Respect it as a gift from God, and do not defile it in any way. Through your dress and appearance, you can show the Lord that you know how precious your body is. You can show that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Prophets of God have always counseled to dress modestly. The way you dress is a reflection of what you are on the inside. Your dress and grooming send messages about you to others and influence the way you and others act. When you are well groomed and modestly dressed, you invite the companionship of the Spirit and can exercise a good influence on those around you.

Never lower your dress standards for any occasion. Doing so sends the message that you are using your body to get attention and approval and that modesty is important only when it is convenient. Ask yourself, "Would I feel comfortable with my appearance if I were in God's presence?"

If you are not sure what is appropriate, ask your parents or leaders for help.

Therefore, all participants are asked to consider wardrobe choices wisely BEFORE leaving for any youth ministry event. All Youth Ministry leaders and chaperones are strongly encouraged to discuss appropriate clothing for diocesan events with youth. We ask also that youth ministry leaders and chaperones check clothing choices before allowing youth to interact with others.

### DRESS CODE

#### DO's

- ♥ Clothes that are allowed at school
- ♥ Collared shirts or non-controversial Tees for guys
- ♥ Modest blouses, dresses or non-controversial Tees for girls
- ♥ Pants, jeans, or shorts that sit at the "natural" waist
- ♥ Slogans, pictures, graphic, etc. on shirts that are church appropriate
- ♥ Shoes that are comfortable for lots of walking

#### DON'TS

- ♥ Undergarments should not be seen
- ♥ Short-shorts, mini-skirts, midriffs, low necklines, or other revealing clothing. (Shorts and skirts should be at least of fingertip length when arms are hung at the sides.)
- ♥ A good rule of thumb is this: If you have to wonder if it is acceptable or NOT, it probably isn't!!

The Event Director in collaboration with the parish coordinator has the authority to determine if and when a participant is to be sent home for just cause.

I have read and understand the above CODE OF CONDUCT, EXPECTATIONS OF ALL PARTICIPANTS and DRESS CODE and will comply.

I am a **YOUTH** PARTICIPANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I am a **CHAPERONE** or **ADULT** PARTICIPANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adult /Chaperone Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date