

CODE OF CONDUCT OF ALL YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

I, _____, am a youth participant in the Steubenville Diocesan Youth Conference in Marietta, OH on October 13, 2019. This covenant is in effect from the moment I depart for the event until the moment I return home at the end of the day. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify personal behavior that is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the Diocese of Steubenville. The items within the Code are based upon performance and are designed to protect the welfare of all participants.

Responsibilities and Participation

- ◆ *Be a disciple who models his/her life after the life of Christ, as expressed in the virtues of love, charity, and concern for all people!*
- ◆ Youth will respect themselves, other people, and other people's property.
- ◆ *Be aware and promote individual and group safety at all times.*
- ◆ *Wear my wristband or name badge at all times.*
- ◆ *Not go somewhere alone without another Youth Participant and/or Chaperone. Individuals are not permitted to go off on their own.*
- ◆ *Not leave my group without first consulting with and getting permission from my group leader.*
- ◆ Youth will participate and contribute in a positive way in all activities and obey the instructions of the youth minister, adult volunteers, and staff. As a participant, you represent your parish/school youth program as well as the Diocese of Steubenville.
- ◆ *Report any illness or injury to my Chaperone.*
- ◆ *Respect facilities at the host site(s).* Damage to the building, furniture, or equipment will be charged to those responsible.
- ◆ *Socializing should take place only in the public areas.*
- ◆ *Respect each other's privacy.*
- ◆ Youth will maintain a Christian witness to the dignity of each person: no tickling, wrestling, piggyback rides, or inappropriate touching (which means: do not touch anyone anywhere that a bathing suit would cover). In addition, physical displays of affection such as kissing, full body hugs, sitting on laps, and lying or sleeping next to each other are inappropriate. Being isolated or alone with another student is not allowed.
- ◆ Harassment, intimidation, or bullying will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- ◆ Youth will stay with the group at all times during the event and will not leave early unless given approval from a parent or guardian ahead of time or in person.

Electronics and Weapons

- ◆ *Leave all "valuables" and personal electronics at home.* Personal gaming devices, iPods, etc. are not welcomed at Diocesan Youth Events. This is an event for meeting and talking with people, not for isolating oneself. Cell phones will be allowed but should not be used during group activities (with the exception of the camera feature). We encourage minimal use of cell phones. The diocese will not be responsible for loss or damage to any personal property, including cameras and cell phones.
 - *Cellphones may not be used, with the exception of the camera feature, unless otherwise specified.*
- ◆ Youth will not possess any weapon of any kind (knife, gun, etc.) at any youth ministry activity at the church or event.

Behavior, Language and Dress

- ◆ Youth will use language that reflects a Christian attitude. Youth will not use curse words or other foul language.

- ◆ *Be courteous and respectful at all times whether dealing with a new experience, varied hospitality situation, unfamiliar people or places, or any other aspect of the pilgrimage.*
- ◆ *Dress in a fashion that represents modesty, respecting other participants and our Lord, for all activities.*
 - No clothing that is sexually suggestive or spiritually degrading. T-shirts or other clothing with evil, vulgar, illegal, or inappropriate content will not be acceptable. In addition, there should be: no midriffs, no low-cut tops, no spaghetti straps, no see through clothing, and no sagging pants to where underwear shows. Please do not wear short shorts. Shorts must be no more than two inches above the knees.
- ◆ *Refrain from telling/being involved in jokes or pranks about bombs, terrorism, or lasers. Any participant attempting such pranks will be held accountable by law enforcement agencies.*
- ◆ *Refrain from inappropriate language and behavior and/or sexual behavior, be it implied, consensual, or verbal.*
- ◆ Youth will not engage in sexual intimacy or sexual harassment and will not possess pornography at any youth ministry activity. Any illegal activity will be promptly reported to proper authorities depending upon the situation.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking

- ◆ Youth will not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or any other illegal drugs at any youth ministry activity.

Anybody found to be purchasing or consuming alcohol or purchasing or using illegal drugs shall be sent home immediately at their own expense and any remaining pilgrimage forfeited.

Insubordination

In the event the Code of Conduct is violated by a youth, proper diocesan protocols will be handled by the diocesan employee, pastor, youth minister, or adult volunteer in charge. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the event.

MY PROMISE:

I freely execute this Acknowledgement with full knowledge of its content. I promise to live by these guidelines and expectations in my attitude and my actions. I will also encourage other participants to live with this promise. I understand that if I choose, by my attitude or by my actions, to not live up to these expectations, I will face consequences which may include being asked to return home at my own expense. No refunds will be given for any unused portion of the pilgrimage.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

As Parent or legal guardian, I remain fully responsible for any legal/financial responsibility which may result from any personal actions taken by the named participant including any violation of this Code.

Parent/ Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

This form "Code of Conduct," must be attached to the Parent/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver, Medical Information, and Media Release Form for each event attended and turned in upon event check-in. A copy of the Field Trip Parent/Guardian Consent Form and Liability waiver must travel to and from each trip away from the church and a copy be held on record at the parish.

It is the group leader's responsibility to ensure all forms have been filled out and are present prior to departure for the event.