

VOLUNTEER COVENANT



FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow these Behavioral Standards as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of the Diocese of Wilmington.

As a volunteer, I will:

1. Conduct myself in a manner that exhibits the highest Christian ethical Standards including developing and maintaining the level of skill required to be a competent volunteer.
2. Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
3. Be knowledgeable of and adhere to the all applicable aspects of the Safe Environment manual.
4. Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or youth while volunteering, always following the two adult rule.
5. Use positive reinforcement and communication rather than criticism, unhealthy competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
6. Honor the equality of all people, avoiding all forms of discrimination and respecting the dignity of each person without regard to economic status, age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or physical or mental abilities.
7. Be responsible/accountable for stewardship of all resources entrusted to my care.
8. Exercise prudent judgment in the giving or accepting of gifts or benefits.
9. Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and the local Child Protection Services agency. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
10. Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.
11. Become thoroughly familiar with the objectives and guidelines of the program and strive to achieve these objectives and communicate them to youth and parents.
12. Uphold the authority of those responsible for the program or activity (DYM, DRE, Principal, Parish Staff, Officials, etc.) and assist them in every way to encourage learning and to conduct fair and impartial events.
13. Carefully follow the Diocesan guidelines for chaperones which provide for the safety and supervision of those entrusted to my care.
14. Avoid any form of over familiarity, inappropriate language, or any situation and conduct which exploits another.
15. Follow practices that consistently exhibit no tolerance for any form of abusive behavior.
16. Follow practices which demonstrate appropriate affection between all Church Personnel and minors which is important for a child's development and a positive part of Church life and ministry. The following forms of affection are regarded as appropriate examples:
 - a. Side Hugs
 - b. Hand-shakes
 - c. Verbal praise
 - d. Arms around shoulders
 - e. Kneeling or bending down for hugs with small children
 - f. Holding hands while walking with small children
 - g. Touching hands, faces, shoulders and arms of minors
 - h. Shoulder to shoulder or "temple hugs"
 - i. "High-fives" and hand slapping
 - j. Hold hands during prayers
 - k. Sitting beside small children
17. Be aware of and clearly understand the Behavioral Standards for Volunteers and act in accord with them.
18. Be aware of and adhere to emergency plans and evacuation routes appropriate to the Program.