

# CODE OF CONDUCT for the YOUTH GROUP

## Youth participants will:

- Project an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity, and respect to everyone and to the property around them through language, dress, and behavior
- Refrain from inappropriate touching and verbal harassment
- Respect other persons and/or property
- Refrain from actions that could result in injury and/or damage to property
- Report problems of any kind to a trusted adult

## Youth participants will not:

- Possess weapons of any kind
- Purchase, possess, consume, or distribute alcohol, purchase, possess, consume, or distribute illegal drugs
- Engage in any form of sexual activity or peer sexual harassment
- Purchase, download, possess, or distribute pornography
- Youth participants will be aware of what are and *are not* appropriate behaviors in terms of relationships between adults and youth, and with their peers
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## THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIORS ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE AT AN YOUTH GROUP EVENT:

- Inappropriate or lengthy embraces, kisses on the mouth
- Holding children on the lap who are capable of sitting on their own
- Touching bottoms, chests, or genital areas
- Showing affection in isolated areas of a facility such as bedrooms, restrooms, bathrooms, private rooms such closets
- Touching knees or legs of minors, Wrestling with minors, Tickling minors, Piggyback rides
- Any type of massage given by minor to adult or another minor
- Any type of massage given by adult to minor
- Any form of unwanted affection or peer sexual harassment
- 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

## THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIORS ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE AT ANY YOUTH GROUP EVENT:

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

## IF A PROBLEM OF ANY KIND OCCURS DURING A YOUTH GROUP EVENT, YOUNG PEOPLE WILL IMMEDIATELY GO TO A TRUSTED ADULT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

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

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teen Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Excerpted from *Safeguarding God's Children: NFCYM Policies for Protecting Young People*)