

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

There are good reasons why policies and rules have to be established. They create boundaries to help us know what is and is not appropriate. Common sense usually dictates such boundaries. To remain active participants in group activities, the following are common expectations that all youth must agree to follow. Youth participants are expected to:

1. Be honest and truthful and show respect for everyone they come in contact with, by both words and actions;
2. Fully participate in all activities in a positive, obedient and constructive manner and set a positive example through both language and actions;
3. Recognize the leadership and authority of adults and youth leaders and respect those people in leadership roles with their attitude, words and action;
4. Respect the rights, feelings and the property of others. Insults tear us apart rather than bring us together for the positive;
5. Deal peacefully with anger and disagreements;
6. Practice good citizenship, leadership and self-governance;
7. Demonstrate positive sportsmanship and attitudes at all times that is becoming of a leader;
8. Refrain from actions that could result in injury and/or cause damage to property. Vandalism or stealing will not be tolerated. Financial obligations that result from such behavior will be the sole responsibility of the youth and their parent/guardian;
9. Not engage in any inappropriate conduct, intimacy, or sexual harassment and will not possess obscene or inappropriate material during any youth group activity;
10. Not to possess any drugs, tobacco products, alcohol, fireworks, matches, cigarette lighters, knives, or items that would endanger people, pets, wildlife, or property, or any items that are illegal;
11. Dress appropriately. Short shorts or skirts, tank tops, any clothing that has any reference to tobacco or alcohol products, contains inappropriate words or graphics, including insignias or advertisements, are prohibited.
12. Unplug themselves from all electronics while at youth group activities and events. Participating youth agree not use cell phones, iPods, cameras or other personal electronic or entertainment devices during youth group activities and events;
13. Remain present at youth group activities unless they obtain the permission from a group advisor to leave;
14. Accept responsibility for their own behavior and conduct, uphold high standards for the group and accept the consequences for inappropriate behavior;
15. Report any inappropriate conduct to a group advisor if they become aware of such inappropriate behavior.

Furthermore, for the protection and safety of all participants, acts of violence, harassment or bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. Violence and harassment includes, but is not limited to, fighting, physical or verbal aggression, assault or abuse, ethnic insults, profane or obscene language, gestures or actions.

Public display of affection with your significant other while participating in youth group activities is inappropriate and distracts from our purpose as we meet together. For the safety and well being of all, every meeting, activity and event will have physical boundaries. Participants are expected to stay within those boundaries.

Rule Breakers

We will always try to show respect in disciplining youth. Most of the time a youth will be dealt with privately rather than in front of others. Parents will be informed of the youth's behavior depending on the severity or repetition of the offense. In a case where a youth's behavior disrupts the learning or enjoyment of others or endangers them in any way, the offending youth will be removed. We will take seriously matters of the law. We will not hesitate to contact law enforcement authorities when warranted. In such cases, parents will be notified as soon as possible after appropriate intervention has taken place. Just for clarification: if a youth does something illegal, we will call the police first and then the parents.

Acceptance

Complete acceptance and agreement with these behavior expectations are a requirement of any youth who elects to participate in the program, as well as their parent or legal guardian. Youth and their parents/guardian acknowledge that if they do not abide by these rules, they may lose the privilege of attending a scheduled activity or may be sent home at the discretion of a group advisor. Youth and their parents/guardian will be responsible for all consequences of youth behavior.

Consequences

First Occurrence: The youth will receive a verbal warning from a group advisor.

Second Occurrence: The youth will be removed from the activity by a group advisor and will participate in a discussion that is meant to resolve the issue in a positive and productive manner and allow the youth to return to the activity.

Third Occurrence: The youth will be removed from the activity by a group advisor and will be required to notify their parent or guardian. Resolution to the issue will be affected by the youth, parent/guardian, and the advisor.

Fourth Occurrence: The youth will be suspended from participating in future youth group activities.

Final authority for determining disruptive or unsafe behavior, along with the consequences of such behavior, will rest with a youth group advisor.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Parents of youth participants must agree to the Behavior Expectations and other rules and guidelines set by the youth group advisors prior to a youth's participation in any activities or events.*