

Youth Safety and Behavior Guidelines

As Catholics, we believe that each person has been created in the image and likeness of God. As such, Holy Family Catholic Church and youth ministry makes every effort to preserve the dignity and safety of each teen by acting in accordance with all rules and regulations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, local law enforcement and the Diocese of Orlando regarding the protection of children and young people. The websites below offer further information.

Child and Youth Protection

<https://www.orlandodiocese.org/safe-environment/english/awareness-and-prevention/>
<http://www.usccb.org/about/child-and-youth-protection/>

Behavior Guidelines

In order to maintain the spirit of youth ministry and the well-being of each person, the following behaviors are **EXPECTED:**

- Respect for others: fair play, honesty
- Respect for self: good judgment concerning clothing and behavior
- Positive contribution of talents to the community
- Respect for property
- Prompt arrival/departure at scheduled events
- Courtesy in adhering to RSVP dates for events

PROHIBITED:

- Smoking, alcohol, drugs
- Weapons or violence of any kind
- Bullying, teasing, sexual harassment, racial slurs or defamation of character
- Clothing that does not uphold the dignity of the person
 - Anything with profanity/drug/alcohol messages
 - Tight clothing
 - Tank tops/spaghetti straps/bare midriffs/muscle shirts
 - Short dresses/ shorts (soffe style)
 - Leggings/yoga style pants

Discipline

Youth ministry makes every effort to handle any incidents in a Christ-like, pastoral manner. Minor incidents will be addressed with a cooling-off period or through adult-youth / youth-youth conversations. Damage to property will be repaired or replaced by the young person(s) responsible for the damage. All illegal activities will be handled through local law enforcement and diocesan procedures. Every action or inaction has a consequence. (For example, not meeting a RSVP deadline may incur a late fee or mean that a teen is not able to participate.) *If there are persistent disruptions, a parent/guardian will be contacted and the child will be asked to step away for a specified 'cooling-off' period.*

Arrival and Departure

The doors in the back of the Parish Life Center at the top of the stairwell are open any time that we are gathering. For departure, young people will be supervised at the bottom of the Upper Room Youth Center's exterior stairwell. For late pick-up and severe weather, teens will remain in the building and parents/guardians must come inside to get them.

Pick up and drop off: Please help us keep your child safe.

- Please enter through the north entrance at the light and exit through the south entrance.
- We ask that you do not park; simply form a line. Children will not be allowed to walk to the main parking lot. Why?
 - Depending on the season, the parking lot is dark.
 - The main parking lot is unsupervised.
 - We have teen drivers.
 - We want to avoid children crossing traffic.

We have read, discussed and agree to abide by the above guidelines.

PARENT: (Print)

(Sign)

Participant: (Print)

(Sign)

DATE: _____