

Diocese of Tucson
Youth Code of Conduct
August 2009

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 property
- ✝ Refrain from actions that could result in injury and/or damage to property
- ✝ Attend all scheduled activities, arriving promptly, and staying for the entire event
- ✝ Maintain the spirit of each event, group, meeting, or retreat
- ✝ Report problems of any kind to a trusted adult
- ✝ Limit use of personal electronic devices to times and places determined by Youth Ministry leaders

Youth participants will not:

- Possess weapons of any kind
- Purchase, possess, consume, or give out alcohol
- Purchase, possess, consume, or give out illegal drugs
- Engage in any form of sexual activity or peer sexual harassment
- Purchase, download, possess, or distribute pornography

The following behaviors are generally considered appropriate:

- ✝ 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
- ✝ Arms around shoulders
- ✝ Short Hugs
- ✝ Holding hands
- ✝ Holding hands during prayer

The following behaviors are generally considered inappropriate:

- Inappropriate or lengthy embraces
- Kisses on the mouth
- Sitting on laps
- Touching bottoms, chests, or genital areas
- Showing affection in isolated areas of a facility such as restrooms, bathrooms, closets, staff-only areas, or other private rooms
- Any type of massage
- 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

If a problem of any kind occurs during a parish sponsored youth 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 parish-sponsored youth event.

If a young person violates the Youth Code of Conduct, any or all of the following sanctions may be implemented:

- Reporting of misconduct to local authorities, if the violation in any way violates local ordinances or laws.
- Dismissal of the youth from the event or program by requesting that the parent remove the youth from the event.

Adapted from the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry *Youth Code of Conduct* and *Safeguarding God's Children: NFCYM Policies for Protecting Young People*, both available online at www.NFCYM.org

Youth Participant Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date