



# Youth Activities Code of Conduct

We are pleased to have you as a participant in our ministry! Whether you are a member of Bethia United Methodist Church or a guest, our Youth Group policy of conduct is based on the expectation that we will conduct ourselves in a Christian manner during all activities (i.e. riding in vehicles, at restaurants, retreats, service projects and all church events.) The following is a statement of conduct to be read and agreed to by your signature. Your parent(s) are also to read and verify that you understand these policies of conduct.

**Electronic Devices:** Use of Electronics is a privilege, not a right, and will only be allowed under certain conditions. If use of devices (phones, i-devices, tablets, computers, etc.) gets in the way of relationships, the spirit of the activity/trip/camp, or sleep/health, it is entirely within the rights of the youth leaders/chaperones to confiscate the device for any amount of time deemed appropriate, including the duration of the trip. The device may be returned to the parents after the event with a conference (consisting of the Youth leader, parent[s], and youth).

**Respect of People:** Youth must respect, listen to, and cooperate with all adult Youth Leaders and drivers, as well as fellow youth. Bullying, harassment, and intimidation will not be tolerated. Negative talk, put downs, and disrespect are not allowed.

*Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendo's, demeaning comments, drawing cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, social media posts, or other written, oral or physical actions.*

**Respect of Property:** Youth will respect the facility where the activity takes place, others' property and their own. Students that are involved in the act of breaking, something will be expected repair/replace the damaged item(s) at his/her expense. Any form of stealing or using other's property without their approval or knowledge will not be tolerated.

**Safety:** Do not leave the group, or assigned "buddy" without permission from Youth Leaders. Wear safety belt in vehicles. Modifying, alternating or relocation of any safety device will not be acceptable.

**Participation:** We expect our youth to come and participate in the spirit of the event, and have the opportunity to grow in Christ and in relationships with each other and with Christian adults. We will not accept behavior that interferes with the full participation of others' education or growth. Students are expected to participate willingly in the planned activities. Your students are here to develop and explore a growing relationship with Christ. There will be times that are fun and crazy, and times that are structured learning environments. This is very intentional and **will not** be disrupted by any

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student/group of students.

**Character:** We believe in the Christian standard of character, and expect our youth to avoid profanity, put-downs, stealing, arguing, exhibiting improper behavior, using alcohol or illegal substances, possession of unauthorized drugs, possession of weapons, and dishonesty. (**Note: If you need to take a medication, it must be brought in by a parent/guardian and given to the youth leader with a note of permission to dispense.**) We will speak in a kind manner, and work out our differences in a peaceful and non-violent manner, involving Youth leaders/adults whenever help is needed. Inappropriate displays of affection (kissing, excessive cuddling, or any action sexual in nature, are NOT permitted during any Bethia Youth Group activity or event. We expect Youth to dress in appropriate and modest ways, and comply with any directive to cover up by Youth leaders.

## **Failure to comply with our Statement of Conduct:**

Depending on the severity of the behavior, we will follow a 3-step process. If the severity of the offense dictates it, the church leadership reserves the right to send the person(s) home who are intentionally oppositional or repeatedly refuse to follow the Statement of Conduct policy mentioned above for any Bethia United Methodist Church or Youth event without warnings.

1) Verbally correct the behavior, along with removal from the situation, removal of a device, separation, etc., as appropriate. Youth leader will be notified if not already involved.

2) If another or the same behavior contrary to our Values Code occurs involving the same person, especially when it is considered to be occurring in a destructive, attention-getting, or belligerent fashion, then a second warning will be given, accompanied by a call to the parent(s) from the youth leader and/or the adult leader.

3) Should there be a third problem behavior contrary to our Code of Conduct, the parent(s)/guardian will be called immediately and asked to come and get their youth. A conference will be scheduled for the Youth leader, a church staff member (if different from the involved Youth leader), parent, and the youth involved to resolve the conflict after the activity/trip is concluded. **This conference must take place before the youth will be allowed to return to weekly Youth Group**

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