

Grace Community Church in Overbrook

Conduct and Sponsorship of Church Youth Activities

Policy #01-008

**Approved By the Church Cabinet
January 22, 2008**

Senior Pastor

Date

Chairman of the Congregation

Date

Policy

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Grace Community Church desires to provide a safe, healthful and God-centered environment where youth can have fun in a social atmosphere and be exposed to the joys of a life under the saving grace of Jesus Christ. In order to provide such an environment, several rules have been established. Where the term “church” is used, it is assumed to mean Grace Community Church; where the term “staff” is used, it is assumed to mean the pastoral staff, church staff or designated supervisory staff appointed by designated task force chairs in charge of activities; and where “participant” is used it is assumed to mean students or youth who participate in church-sponsored events.

Church-sponsored events are meant to be fun and to glorify God. Participants represent Grace Community Church in their actions and their demeanor and are expected to be respectful and follow the rules listed below:

1. **Responsibility.** The Pastor of Student Ministries is solely responsible for the scheduling, coordination and supervision of all church-sponsored youth events. All decision-making authority related to youth and youth activities under the sponsorship of the church are assigned to the Pastor of Student Ministries. Subsequent responsibilities may be delegated to others at the discretion of the Pastor of Student Ministries.
2. **Sponsors.** No one under the age of twenty-one (21) will be allowed to be a sponsor at any mission trip, camp, retreat or activity of the church or to serve in any counselor role which deals with the discussing or the counseling of participants’ spiritual needs. No one under the age of twenty-one (21) will be allowed to drive any vehicle which provides transportation for an event sponsored by the church. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 21 will be allowed to “tag” along on a case-by-case basis on events designated by the Pastor of Student Ministries. All sponsors are to be treated with respect, and participants should follow all direction of sponsors unless those directions are unlawful, unethical or immoral.
3. **Physical Contact.** While in the church building or participating in any church-sponsored activity within the church, on the church grounds or under the supervision of staff, participants will refrain from fighting, biting, stabbing, jabbing, choking, poking, maiming, butting and running. Wrestling in any church building is prohibited.
4. **Respect for Property.** Participants should show respect for property belonging to the church or other individuals. The grabbing, stealing or intentional breaking of items, equipment or facilities belonging to the

church or others is prohibited. Participants will refrain from the throwing of objects in any church building except in conjunction with approved games (i.e. dodge ball, etc.)

5. **Consideration of the Time of Others.** While some members of a group may participate because their parents require their attendance, others participate because they want to. Participants should be considerate of the wishes and time of others, and should be present promptly when meeting times are expressly given. Tardiness for any irresponsible reason will result in the loss of the right to participate in future events.
6. **Tobacco, Pornography and Drugs.** The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or drug products on church property or on church-sponsored events is expressly prohibited. Cigars, cigarettes, lighters, matches, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products (i.e. snuff, chewing tobacco, etc.), pornography, prescription and non-prescription drugs should not be present, used or distributed at any church activity. Should a participant be required to take medication for any reason, parents should provide the medication, along with instructions and dosage, to a youth sponsor prior to the church activity.
7. **Verbal Remarks.** Unkind verbal arguments, fights, slander or inappropriate remarks against others are not acceptable. Behavior which includes cussing, screaming, shaming, blaming, shunning and protracted complaining will not be tolerated. In conversations, if a participant disagrees, comments opposed to the idea, not the person should be proposed. If a situation arises which cannot be resolved peacefully, an adult staff member will help settle the matter. Any decisions made by the supervisory staff will be final.
8. **Displays of Affection.** Observable displays of affection between members of the opposite sex should be discouraged. Participants should abstain from the holding of hands, kissing, affectionate hugging, making-out, interlocking legs and rubbing noses, or any other lewd or suggestive behavior during youth activities.
9. **Dress.** Participants in events should wear modest, acceptable attire for all activities. No half-shirts (bare midriff), short shorts, or short skirts are acceptable. No clothing or jewelry which promotes drug, tobacco or alcohol use is acceptable. No undergarments are allowed to show (over, out or through) at any time (including bras, boxers, thongs, etc.). For pool environments, ladies will be expected to wear modest one-piece swimming suits which should be covered by a dark T-shirt. Boys and gentlemen should wear modest swim suits when swimming and modest shorts and a dark T-shirt.

10. **Security.** No one individual will be allowed to go off individually or in pairs when on a retreat or mission trip. Participants must travel in groups of three or more of which one must be a male. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
11. **Sickness.** An adult sponsor should be notified immediately if a participant on any church-sponsored event or activity feels sick or needs medical attention. At no time should any participant attempt to render medical treatment or aid to any other participant.
12. **Attendance and Transport.** Attendance at any event means that participants are expected to remain until the event is over (unless the participant provides a note from a parent or guardian with a good reason for excusal). If more than one transport vehicle has been used in conjunction with an event, participants are expected to return in the same vehicle which brought them to the event.
13. **Responsibility for Lost Items.** It is the sole responsibility of each participant to account for personal items brought to church-sponsored events. The church will not be held responsible for personal items misplaced, lost or stolen during an event.
14. **Profanity.** Profanity, vulgarity, dirty jokes and nasty, demeaning or gossipy conversations have no place at any church activity. Participants in church activities are expected to speak and act with integrity at church-sponsored events.
15. **Weapons.** No knives, guns, BB guns, pellet guns, slingshots, bow and arrow or any other item which might be considered a weapon will be allowed at any church-sponsored event.
16. **Food.** Food that is bought, provided, brought, or prepared in conjunction with an event is meant to be eaten not used as a toy or thrown.
17. **Music/Video.** No music or videos, other than Christian music or videos, should be played at any church-sponsored activity. If a participant is found to be listening to non-Christian music or watching a non-Christian video, the electronic device will be confiscated and returned at the end of the event. If this occurs more than once, the device will be returned to the parent or guardian.
18. **Cell Phones.** Participants are not allowed to carry or possess cell phones on any designated mission trip, retreat, camp, or any other Spiritual event held away from the church. Parents, sponsors, staff or other adults should have a cell phone available and on their person at all times. In the event a participant brings a cell phone with them to a Spiritual event, the parents

will immediately be called to pick up the participant at the parent's expense. There will be no exceptions to this rule.