



Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

Youth Ministry Community Covenant

The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia is committed to providing a safe place for all diocesan-sponsored youth activities. Adult and youth participants acknowledge and accept in writing that our community life is based upon mutual trust, respect for others, and adherence to the spirit and specifics of the following set of standards:

- I will choose to behave in a manner that respects the dignity of each person. To this end, I will honor diverse viewpoints, act charitably, speak positively toward others, and refrain from gossip.
- I will respect the authority of the event leaders and the adults in charge, and I will follow all reasonable rules.
- I will stay on the event property and with the community at all times.
- I will be fully engaged in the program and will participate in all activities and events. Accordingly, I will abide by the cell phone policy in effect at each event.
- I will resist sinful situations and will not use or possess alcohol, drugs or tobacco. If adults (over 18 and no longer in school) must use tobacco, it will not be used in front of youth.
- I will treat all personal and public property and facilities with care, refraining from acts of theft or vandalism.
- I will help to create a safe and peaceful environment by not speaking or behaving in a violent or abusive manner, and I will not possess or use fireworks, firearms, weapons (including pocket knives) or open flames.
- I will seek to build up the Body of Christ, by loving my neighbor as myself. I recognize that sexual behavior, language and activity have no place in this context.

During the course of diocesan events, youth and adults will be held accountable to this covenant. Should any problem arise, every effort will be made to resolve the issue with love and respect. Disregard for this covenant will result in dismissal from diocesan events. Parents will be informed immediately of any violation and will be responsible for any expenses incurred due to the violation. Adults in violation of said policies are responsible for any expenses incurred and must leave the event. Authority to enforce these guidelines lies with the Youth Missioner or leadership teams responsible for the coordination of the event.

For Youth and Adult Participants: *I have read the covenant and agree to participate in _____ (name of event) according to the standards described. I understand that my failure to do so may result in me being removed from the community and sent home at my expense.*

Participant signature _____ Date _____

Participant name (print) _____

For Parents of Youth: *I have read the covenant and have reviewed it with my child. I understand that my child's failure to adhere to the covenant may result in him/her being removed from the community and sent home at my expense.*

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Parent name (print) _____