



Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

Community Standards for Youth Programs

The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia is committed to providing a safe place for all Diocesan sponsored youth activities, while also helping participants explore and deepen their relationship with Christ, learn more about the Episcopal Church, and live into their Baptismal Covenant by serving the world around them. Adult and youth participants acknowledge and accept in writing that our community life is based upon mutual trust and 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 and will treat others as I wish to be treated. To this end, I will honor diverse viewpoints, act charitably, speak positively toward others and refrain from gossip, rumors, and triangulation. I will use respectful communication, refraining from use of foul language and gestures, and I will speak with honesty.
- I will help to create a safe and peaceful environment by not speaking or behaving in a violent or abusive manner. I will not engage in fighting, bullying, hazing, teasing, violence, or any form of threatening behavior or language.
- I will not possess or use fireworks, firearms, or weapons. Youth participants will also not possess lighters, pocket knives, candles, or open flames. Any candles or fires used for programing purposes should be monitored at all times.
- I will not use or possess non-sacramental alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and other nicotine products, illegal drugs, nor will I abuse prescription medications. Youth will also turn over any medications to the individual responsible for medical care at the event.
- I will treat all personal and public property and facilities with care, refraining from acts of theft or vandalism and acknowledge that I will be held financially responsible for intentional damage to property.
- I will be present and on time for all planned activities and remain on the event property and with the community at all times. I will abide by curfews, quiet times, and physical boundaries set forth for the event.
- I will abide by the policy for cell phones and other electronic devices set forth at each event and will not engage in use of any electronic devices during programmed time.
- I will dress appropriately throughout the entire event, including wearing clothing appropriate to the activity. My undergarments will not be visible and my clothing will be free of inappropriate images and language.
- I recognize that sexual behavior, language, and activity have no place in this context and will refrain from engaging in such behavior. Sleeping quarters are to be private areas. All visitation and social time will occur only in common areas and never inside sleeping quarters.
- I will not engage in sexual misconduct of any kind, including use of pornography.
- I will not make alterations to my own or a peer's body, including piercing, tattooing, etc.
- I understand that visitors who are not registered participants of the event are not permitted.
- I will follow these and other guidelines set forth for the event and will respect the authority of the event leaders and the adults in charge.



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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 may result in dismissal from the event. Parents/guardians will be informed 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. Items not permitted by our policies will be confiscated. Authority to enforce these guidelines lies with the leadership teams responsible for the coordination of the event.

For Youth and Adult Participants: *I have read the community standards and agree to live up to the standards described because I want to be safe, love others and represent Jesus at all times.. 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/Guardians 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/their being removed from the community and sent home at my expense.*

Parent/Guardian
Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian name (print) _____