

Food Guidelines for Religious Education Programming

Food allergies can be life threatening. The risk of accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the church setting if churches work with children, youth, and families to minimize risks and provide a safe environment for food-allergic children. It is the intent of the Religious Education program to provide a loving, safe, organized environment in which Eliot Chapel children & youth thrive through positive experiences in a church setting during Religious Education programming. It is also the intent that no child or youth will be excluded from any Religious Education program activity due to a food allergy.

- The following rooms at Eliot Chapel are **peanut-free & tree nut-free zones at ALL TIMES:**
 - Nursery (used for children 3 and younger)
 - Room 105, 106, 107, & 108 (used by the Eliot Chapel Nursery School)
 - Room 001-006
 - Senior High Youth Room (across from the RE Office)
 - Gray Room (across from the nursery)

- **Parents & guardians** are responsible for notifying the Religious Education staff annually (at registration or upon completing a guest form) of any food allergies which may impact their children or youth. This information may be shared with the child/youth's teachers or advisors.

- In **preschool and elementary classes** (usually 6th grade and younger), food will only be provided when it is included as part of a specific Religious Education lesson.
 - The Religious Education staff will communicate with teachers prior to the lesson to ensure that any food items served do not pose allergy complications.

 - Teachers and classroom volunteers working with children in 6th grade and younger **should not** provide food for their classes unless specifically approved in advance by the Religious Education staff.

 - Any food served to children in 6th grade and younger as part of the Religious Education program **MUST be peanut-free & tree nut-free.**

 - Products containing peanuts or nuts should not be used for craft projects or other activities.

- Periodically, food may be provided as part of youth group classes or activities (7th grade and older).

- If youth are participating in an event requiring a permission form (Lock-In, CON, etc.), parents & guardians are responsible for noting any food allergies on the form prior to the event.
- Church events will frequently have food available for consumption by children, youth, and adults (Potlucks, Coffeehouses, Adams Hall fellowship, Bread Service, etc.). **Parents & guardians are responsible for monitoring what their child/youth consumes during these events.**

This draft was reviewed on August 8, 2018