

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)
 - Children's Library (adjacent to 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 7, 2019