

First Baptist Church of Greenwood

Student Ministry Policies

All of the policies described below have been implemented by the Youth Committee to assist in making FBC Youth programming successful and safe. All parents/guardians and youth are asked to review these policies carefully. **Please sign and return page 3 only.**

I. PARTICPATION IN YOUTH ACTIVITIES

All FBC youth are encouraged to participate in all youth activities offered at the church. In keeping with the spirit of Christ, all students are expected to behave themselves appropriately during all FBC activities, whether taking place at church or elsewhere. Students are expected to participate in the activities with the rest of the group and demonstrate a positive attitude at all times. Students who engage in disruptive conduct during FBC activities and have to be corrected repeatedly during an event may be sent home, at the discretion of the Associate Pastor or the volunteer leader in charge of the event. If the leader determines that a student must be sent home, his or her parents will be notified by telephone that they should arrange to pick up their youth as soon as possible, and the youth will not be allowed to participate in any event while waiting for their parent/guardian to arrive.

Examples of disruptive conduct specifically include, but are not limited to the following:

- Yelling or making excessive noise at inappropriate times during youth activities.
- Using vulgar or obscene language or engaging in conduct intended to insult or degrade another person.
- Refusing to follow the event leader's instructions or directions.
- Engaging in horseplay or other actions which have the effect of disrupting the activity or causing injury. Also, willfully engaging in conduct that harms others.
- Using tobacco products, consuming alcohol, and possession or use of illegal drugs.

The final decision on what constitutes disruptive conduct will be at the discretion of the Associate Pastor or the volunteer leader.

II. TIME

All students and their parents are asked to take the appropriate steps to ensure that youth arrive at youth events **on time** and ready to depart. The schedule of regular youth events is published in the church newsletter, which is mailed to every household upon request. Student activities begin at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays. Sunday nights seasonally vary. Programs and events will also be posted in the weekly church E-News Update and YouthNews emails. In consideration of the amount of time that youth volunteers put into youth programs, parents are asked to be sure they are **on time** to pick up their youth from all FBC activities. If a parent needs help getting a child picked up, please let the leader know so that alternate transportation can be arranged. Wednesday night activities normally end at 7:15 pm (youth choir by 8:00 pm). Other times are subject to change as posted in the church E-News Update or YouthNews emails.

III. CLOTHING/APPEARANCE

Youth and parents are reminded that the youth represent FBC when out in the Greenwood community or elsewhere. As representatives of FBC, all youth are expected to wear appropriate attire at all times while participating in FBC events. Appropriate attire is normally casual or active wear, but does **not** include t-shirts, other clothing items or accessories that depict violence, sexually explicit material, vulgar or offensive language, or other inappropriate material. Defining what constitutes inappropriate material or attire is in the sole discretion of the Associate Pastor or volunteer leader. Violation of this section will result in the youth being sent home to change into appropriate clothing.

IV. GUEST POLICY

Youth are **strongly encouraged** to invite guests to participate in **all** youth activities. However, it is understood that guests are expected to conform to the policies and rules governing FBC events. A guest's failure to abide by these policies will result in their being sent home. Students are asked to advise their guests of the church's rules before arriving at the event. Further, in order for guests to participate in off-campus events, their parents must sign a medical release form.

V. TRANSPORTATION

All FBC transportation vehicles are to conform to the Vehicle Use Policy in the FBC Policies and Procedures Manual. FBC provides buses and occasional volunteer-driven transportation to and from all FBC events. Students will need a signed copy of the medical release form, which will cover all FBC sponsored events (except additional forms required by some camps, retreats, etc.) Only at the discretion of the Associate Pastor or volunteer leader will accommodations be made for parents picking their youth up at a different location other than the scheduled location.

Students **and adults** who possess a valid driver's license may drive their own vehicle to FBC events, so long as they obtain prior permission from the Associate Pastor. Such students must also have the express permission of their parents to drive their own vehicle to a FBC event, and parents must absolve FBC of all responsibility for providing such youth with transportation to or from events. Students wishing to ride with another youth licensed to drive may do so **only with the permission of their parents**, and the student driver's family must also consent to allowing passengers in their child's vehicle. FBC is not responsible and will not maintain liability insurance on any such vehicle driven by a student or adult.

- Transportation will be provided by FBC buses and occasional adult volunteers who are listed on the church's insurance. Students may drive vehicles to local FBC events/activities with prior permission from the Associate Pastor.
- Students wishing to ride with another youth licensed to drive may do so only with the permission of their parents; the student driver's family must also consent to allowing passengers in their child's vehicle.
- For students driving weekly, and for students driving other students weekly from FBC sponsored events/activities, parents need to turn in a signed permission form absolving FBC from liability.

**** Please review and keep pages 1 and 2. Sign page 3 and return to the church office. ****

Student Ministry Guidelines

The following are the guidelines of the Student Ministry of First Baptist Church. They summarize and supplement the guidelines of pages 1 & 2 of this packet. These guidelines are in the best interest of the ministry of First Baptist Church and they will be firmly, yet lovingly, enforced.

1. Enjoy yourself. Promote a fun, willing, and positive attitude.
2. Youth will respect the authority of each adult involved in the Student Ministry. In the event that this respect is not given, parents will be immediately informed.
3. T-shirt messages are to be wholesome and appropriate. Also, clothes should be modest. Inappropriate clothing will be determined by Associate Pastor or volunteer leader.
4. Use trash containers provided. Please don't throw trash anywhere other than the containers provided. All groups will clean the vehicles and facilities used before the end of the trip or program.
5. For your safety, do not wander the halls or parking lots of the church. Please participate in all scheduled activities you are involved in.
6. No tobacco products, alcohol, or other controlled substances allowed.
7. Please use discretion with PDA ("public displays of affection") with a significant other. Youth events and spaces are not to be used for 'cuddling' or 'making out' with significant others.

*****If a discipline problem is deemed serious enough, the youth will be sent home from any FBC Youth event at the parent's expense.*****

I have read and agree to follow these guidelines. **Both parents/guardians should sign below, if applicable.**

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Return to church office as soon as possible. Thank you.