

DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BEEBE

The youth ministry of First Baptist Church Beebe seeks to minister to the needs of youth. The adults who serve as leaders tend to affirm and encourage rather than criticize and condemn. Leaders believe an atmosphere of Christ-like, unconditional love and affirmation provides more motivation to grow and change than an atmosphere of criticism. However, there need to be healthy guidelines for any group to function. Because ministers, parents and leaders are all partners in the rearing of youth, it is important for each of these groups to approach discipline and guidance at church from the same perspective.

BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM AND DURING WORSHIP In the life of the church, times of teaching and worship are primary. Youth and other members who come to church in order to learn and grow deserve to study and worship in an atmosphere where that is possible without hindrance. The leaders have a responsibility to maintain that atmosphere. (Cell phones must have ringers turned off and NO text messaging at any time). Students who make Bible study impossible for those around them will be removed from the class. This student will spend the remainder of the time with the Youth Pastor or with his or her parents. Before a student is dismissed from a class or service, leaders have a responsibility to tell the student that his or her behavior warrants dismissal. In most cases, the leaders will inform the parents when a dismissal has taken place. Depending on the circumstances, a student who has been dismissed from a group should be welcome at the next meeting. The leaders need to try and discover what is motivating the misbehavior. Whenever possible, the youth ministry family should seek to meet those needs.

RESPECT TOWARD LEADERS Youth who choose to participate in First Baptist Church youth activities agree to follow the instructions of the leaders. Obeying those instructions and showing respect toward leaders is a condition for remaining at an activity.

TRIP POLICIES First Baptist Church assumes a lot of responsibility when taking youth out of town. Obeying and respecting sponsors is essential for the youth group to function well. A serious breakdown in these areas must result in the youth returning home to the parents. Whenever possible, a leader will provide transportation home for the student. If that is not possible, the parents or legal guardian will come pick the student up or pay for commercial transportation home. Parents or legal guardians agree to support the sponsors' decisions about sending a student home, knowing that only those present on the trip can know all the circumstances involved. In order to keep a positive Christian atmosphere on all trips, there shall only be Christian music played. Any music that does not meet the standard previously set will be taken from the person who brought the music and may or may not be returned. Also, NO personal electronic devices are allowed except when needed by the youth leader or trip sponsor. On all trips, a student may be sent home for breaking curfew, body piercing, permanent tattooing or any other form of permanently changing ones' appearance, possessing alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products, leaving the group, intimate petting, stealing, assault, or the possession of pornography or a dangerous weapon. Also, NO silly string, itching powder, fireworks of any kind, slime, water balloons, or any other type of items such as these may be taken on trips. The purchasing of live animals is not permitted on any trip! Any misbehavior not foreseen will be handled by any means the leader deems fit. It is to be understood that any rule or guideline that is not mentioned in our discipline guidelines but is required by a camp or retreat where our youth are present will also apply to our youth. (Boys and girls are not allowed to visit in the same room without an adult chaperone present when staying in a motel, at a camp, or retreat). On all trips, we recommend using the "Buddy" system. This means that all youth will have to be with their "buddies" when we go somewhere. In other words, the youth should not be anywhere by themselves for safety reasons.

WEAPONS The physical safety of the youth group is one of our church's top priorities. Therefore, no youth may possess a gun, martial arts item, or any other weapon at any youth group activity at the church or away. **THE PRESENCE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON MAY RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE CALL TO 911 AND FULL COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES WHO RESPOND.** In the meantime, the sponsor in charge will coordinate a plan with other leaders to best protect the safety of the youth present. Actual confrontation with a student who has a gun will be left to the proper authorities. If practical, parents of the involved student will be contacted.

IN-TOWN POLICIES Assault, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons as described above, pornography and tobacco products are not permitted at youth group activities.

PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE Parents have not assigned to church leaders the right to physically discipline their son or daughter. Therefore, leaders only make physical contact with a student in order to prevent a greater harm, such as during a fight or an attempt to harm one's self. With rare exceptions, no other physical restraint is appropriate. **ROUGH HORSEPLAY IS PROHIBITED!**

PHYSICAL AFFECTION Our goal and heart's desire is to promote and encourage moral purity for both leaders and youth. The youth ministry of First Baptist Church believes this desire for moral purity should be the standard for which all physical interaction is measured. For example, "making out" in trip vehicles and on church outings does not promote or encourage moral purity and results in an immediate trip home.

LOCATION OF YOUTH Church leaders can only be responsible for students who are actually in an area designated for a youth activity. Parents have no way of knowing that the youth are where they should be, and consequently, whether there is leader supervision. Therefore, it is the policy of our youth ministry that all youth on church property must be in the actual area where the announced activity is taking place. The only options open to youth are to be in the designated class or activity area or to leave the church property. Church leaders only provide supervision for 15 minutes after the end of a youth activity at the church. Parents providing transportation home are responsible for knowing the ending time of the activity and arriving within those 15 minutes.

IN-TOWN TRANSPORTATION The church provides adult-driven vehicles for those students who need a ride to an activity away from the church. Licensed drivers may take their cars on activities with parent's consent. Church leaders will let the youth know when they can or cannot drive. Parents have the responsibility to clarify with their youth whether youth-driven vehicles are an option. The church, church leaders, church staff or church members cannot be responsible or held liable for the safety of youth driven cars and cannot guarantee the quality of driving or proper insurance. The timely return of youth to church can only be guaranteed to youth in church-provided transportation. State law requires that church-provided cars and vans must have a seat belt available for every passenger. There must not be any more passengers in a vehicle than what the law requires.

VANDALISM First Baptist Church requires that parents ensure that their youth pays for any vandalism or willful damage to property.

SWIMMING REGULATIONS Swimsuits worn to any youth swimming or water event should be modest and provide appropriate coverage in the front and back. They should fit properly to prevent slipping and excessive exposure. Keep in mind that "modest" means to not draw attention to self. It has been our policy that girls must wear a modest one-piece swimsuit or tankini that shows NO midriff area. However, if a two-piece is worn, it must be covered with a dark t-shirt. Guys are to wear modest swim shorts. Safety First Baptist Church assumes no responsibility for accidents, injury, or death on or near the water. We recommend that everyone, swimmers and non-swimmers wear a life jacket at all times, while on or in the water. Parents should instruct their children as to the safety hazards associated with boating, swimming, and all water related activities. We recommend using a "Buddy" system, in that you always know where your "Buddy" is and vice versa, while in and on the water.

DRESS CODE The dress code will be with Christian modesty in mind. NO tight fitting apparel (tops, blouses, spandex clothing, shirts, pants, mini-skirts, gym shorts, etc.) is permitted at anytime. No clothing will be permitted that promotes non-Christian music groups, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages or suggestive messages and anything considered inappropriate. No cut-off t-shirts or jerseys. Also, no low cut shirts are permitted by either sex. All blouses and tops must fit loosely and come below the belt line! NO midriff area showing at any time! The shorts must meet the measurement standard: the length of a dollar bill from the middle of the kneecap to the bottom of the shorts while you are standing straight up and a chaperone measuring them. Also, "sagging" pants or shorts are not permitted at any time by either sex! Chaperones on trips have permission to suggest a change of dress at any time they feel the need to do so. The clothing you wear and your general appearance are important. Good grooming is a part of your testimony.

SPEECH "Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." James 3:10 NIV "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29 NIV These verses reveal to us that what comes out of our mouths has the potential to build someone up or tear someone down. Therefore, profanity will not be tolerated at any time. As well as, any words that have a suggestive meaning behind them. The leaders will inform the youth which words fit into this category.

PURPOSE FOR THESE GUIDELINES These policies are provided in order to make sure that there is a clear communication among the members of the youth ministry family of First Baptist Church. For years, First Baptist Church has provided a positive, loving atmosphere for youth. Thankfully, youth and leaders enjoy a mutual respect and understanding that results in very few discipline issues.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." I Timothy 4:12 NIV

Having read the youth discipline guidelines for the Youth Ministry of First Baptist Church Beebe, we (parent and youth) agree to follow these guidelines as set forth by First Baptist Church Beebe.

YOUTH PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENTS'/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

*NOTE: For any youth to participate in the youth activities of First Baptist Church, we MUST have a medical form, (filled out and signed by a parent or legal guardian), and a discipline guideline form, (signed by a parent or legal guardian and youth), on file at the church on all youth. These forms can be picked up in the church office.

Approved and submitted to First Baptist Church Beebe by the Youth Committee and ministerial staff. Approved by the church on June 8, 2008.