



Diocese of Joliet

Young Adult Ministry Office

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COLLEGIATE GUIDELINES

Collegiate and Young Adult Policy for Events with Children & Youth

Thank you for your participation in this event. Because youth will be present at this program, the following guidelines have been developed to ensure the safety and protection of the younger participants at the event. Collegiate-age young adults, no matter how young they are, are now considered *adults* – and must abide by the guidelines of all adult participants at events such as these.

General Conduct

Young adults should reflect mature and responsible behavior. As models of appropriate Christian behavior, these adults are asked to follow the high school participants' *Code of Behavior* as well. In addition to modeling a positive attitude and involvement for the young people present, collegiate participants will refrain from consuming or being under the influence of drugs and alcohol and from smoking, as well as any behavior that is inappropriate in a Catholic Christian setting. It is important for the youth to realize that all the adults present (regardless of their age) are there to walk the journey alongside them.

Responding to Accidents

If young adult participants witness an emergency that requires immediate medical attention, it is critical that they contact emergency services immediately (in the United States, dial 911). Please inform an event leader of any incident as soon as possible (and if at a diocesan event, the diocesan staff person responsible for the event). If medical attention is required, but not on an emergency basis, young adult participants should make the participant as comfortable as possible within the boundaries provided by their *Youth Medical Permission Form*.

Please be sure to stay in communication with the program leader and/or the diocesan staff person in charge of the event. It is important to use the *Accident/Incident Form for Youth Events* to document what happened to cause the accident and the steps taken to provide attention or treatment following the accident. This should be turned in to the parish or diocesan leader.

For the Safety of the Youth Participants and Adults

No adult (over 18) should ever be alone in an enclosed area with a youth participant (age 18 and under). Conversations with youth participants should take place in a *public location*. If you are speaking to youth in a room, make sure the door to that room remains open. Care should be made to have another adult in the general vicinity during any conversations in such settings. Furthermore, youth are not permitted to be overnight guests in the residence of any adults, *including collegians and young adults*; likewise, these same adults are not permitted to be overnight guests in the residence of any youth.

The following forms of physical contact between young adults and minors are considered inappropriate and are *not* to be used: lengthy embraces; kissing on the mouth; holding minors over age five on the lap; touching the buttocks, chest, genital areas, or the knees/legs of a minor; sleeping in a bed, sleeping bag, or small tent with a youth; wrestling, tickling, and roughhousing; piggyback rides; any type of massage given by a youth to an adult

and any type of massage given by an adult to a youth; any form of unwanted affection; and compliments that relate to physique or body development.

Furthermore, if you witness or see another youth and young adult in any of the circumstances above (or talking about engaging in any of the above) or if you know a minor has been in any of these situations, it is your responsibility to confront the situation and notify the event leaders immediately.

Responsibility to Report

Part of the role that all adults have in an intergenerational setting is to look out for those who are younger than they are. It is the responsibility of all adults, *including collegians and young adults*, to report any issues that might harm or violate anyone else at the event, especially those under the age of 18.

You must take the responsibility to report the following information concerning youth:

Type of information to report:	Timeframe to report it:	Who to report it to:
Serious behavior code violations (at the event); for details, see the <i>Code of Behavior</i>	As soon as possible	Parish leader or diocesan staff person(s) in charge of the event
Accident or injury (at the event)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immediately if emergency treatment is required ▪ As soon as possible if not an emergency situation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency services first, then the parish leader, parents, and diocesan staff in charge of the event ▪ Parish leader, diocesan staff in charge of the event, and/or parents
Suicide thoughts or threat; and if a person is in an immediate danger to themselves or others	Immediately	Parish leader, diocesan staff person(s) in charge of the event, and/or parents.
Witness of or the disclosure of any physical or sexual abuse (as well as any <i>realistic potential</i> issues of abuse)	Immediately	Parish leader, diocesan staff in charge of the event, and/or parents. This also needs to be reported to the appropriate authorities (police, etc.).

Videotaping and Still Photographs

Videotaping and still photographs may occur during this event. These may be used for marketing future events of this nature. Registration for this event constitutes permission for possible participation in videotaping and/or still photographs.

As an adult attending this event, I understand my responsibilities and agree to abide by these guidelines and to follow the rules of the *Code of Behavior* and all the other rules and regulations of this event.

Signature

Date