

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Because we are a caring Christian community, we ask that youth and their parents read and sign the following expectations:

- No youth will leave any group activity early, especially an overnight activity, without a parent picking them up and contacting the youth director in advance. Youth may not come and go during activities. If they leave, they may not return unless prior arrangements are made with the fellowship coordinators
- We insist that participants refrain from use of tobacco, alcohol, narcotic drugs, offensive language, and personal listening devices during meetings and activities. Cell phones should be silenced and no texting is allowed during activities
- We ask that participants help keep our meeting spaces clean and neat and expect to be asked to assist in cleaning up after themselves
- Christian hospitality, respect, and courtesy are expected of group members to help make our time together as safe and meaningful as possible. Participants will be expected to behave in a likely manner when together as a partial or full group. Especially out in public!
- Our vision for this group is to offer a safe place for youth to express their faith and encourage spiritual growth. We ask that conversations be limited to words that build each other up in their faith. Talk of gossip, violence, and sexual activity should only be discussed in relation to concerns and in a “Christian” context
- When a leader or participant begins to feel uncomfortable with language, actions, or how they are being treated –they can use the “sign” established by the youth council leaders. This tells others that things are getting out of hand
- Negative comments, put-downs, and criticism are no longer tolerated. We now have a “No Put Down” rule. When a participant uses words toward another that is not uplifting, they will be expected to fill out a “Put Up” sheet
- Participants are expected to listen and show respect when someone is addressing the group. When it starts to get loud, the person speaking will use the attention grabber of their choice to get the crowd to quiet down

- Youth are welcome to bring an unlimited number of friends to church activities. Field trips are limited to bringing just one friend.
- Special events (overnighters, weekend events, mission trips, etc) are intended for the youth group members. Inviting friends to a special event requires contacting the youth director for consideration.
- Mission trip participants are expected to help with at least seventy-five percent of the fundraising activities or to pay additional fees in order to attend the event. Negotiations may be made with the missions coordinators
- Participants are expected to remain with the group in the designated areas for the church activity. Unless arrangements are made with the youth leaders to leave the group or be in other areas of the church.
- Confidentiality and trust are important to develop a safe environment for sharing. We ask that personal information not be shared outside the group
- Incident reports will be made out in the event of an injury, abuse –verbal and physical, and misbehavior.
- Persons under twenty-one years of age may not drive during youth group activities. Group members with a driver’s license may not drive friends or other youth to field trips
- To attend field trips, all youth must turn in a signed permission slip. Field trip permission slips are due on the Sunday before the date of the event. They can be given to any youth leader during church, put into the “Youth Director” box at the top of the stairs, or turned in at the evening activities. No youth can attend a field trip without a permission slip turned in by the previous Sunday or by contacting the youth director by phone no later than Wednesday prior to the trip. It is common for us to have 25 + youth attend field trips and we need to make arrangements for drivers

Please fill out the form on the next page and turn it in with the rest of the papers

I have read and agree to the rules that are expected of me. I will conduct myself with respect for the youth leaders and for other youth. I understand that this group is a place where I can be myself and express my faith freely without the fear of ridicule. I will accept others as God has made them and will do my best to interact with others in a Christ-like manner.

Participants

signature _____

Printed

name _____

I have read and agree to the rules of the youth program. I will do my best to support these rules and be involved in helping my youth adhere to them. I will help the youth leaders by encouraging my young person to grow spiritually.

Parent/Guardian

signature _____

Printed

name _____

Email address

for parents info _____

PHOTO / CONTACT INFO RELEASE

I understand that photographs are taken during many of our activities. Most of the photos are used for the posters on the youth wall and may be used on our church's youth website. I give the BUMC Youth Program permission to use photos of my son / daughter on the event posters and church website.

Signature _____

- I give permission for event posters and internet
- I give permission for event posters only
- I give permission for internet only
- I DO NOT want any photos of my son/daughter available for others to see

Individual contact information, including email addresses, may be released to other youth group participants, youth leaders, youth ministry team members, and the BUMC church office. If there is any safety reason this distribution is not acceptable, please indicate below:

