

## Youth Ministry Chaperone Conduct and Guidelines

Because of who we are in Christ and the impressionable age we work with, each of us must be willing to lead by example in every area of our life. Part of being a chaperone with the San Jose Youth Ministry is being above reproach in every aspect of our lives so we can be everything God is calling us to be as we minister to teens.

Chaperoning is a privilege, not a right, even for parents of the teens going to an event or on a trip. The youth minister will personally select all chaperones and reserves the right to deny a request as he sees fit.

The following areas are very important if you are to maintain a good reputation. Your compliance in each of these areas is needed for you to be a chaperone. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in immediate dismissal from an event and may result in lack of invitation for future events.

1. Live a lifestyle that strives to adhere to Biblical principles and models the life and love of Jesus Christ.
2. Go to church with San Jose. Don't show up every now and then— be a regular. Engage with teens at church. If you don't engage with them at church, you probably wouldn't engage with them at an event.
3. Despite what our teens do, always have age-appropriate interactions with our teens. Stay away from strong sarcasm, crude humor, gossip. In general, keep your hands to yourself.
4. Let your words only be positive. Never voice critical opinions about any church, religion, politics, staff, parents, events, or students in front of our teenagers. If you have any concerns or complaints, please take them to Corey. Resist the urge to complain to other parents or friends of yours to "vent".
5. Be above reproach in your use of social media. Do not post anything remotely inappropriate on your private accounts. Let teens reach out to you on social media, not vice versa.
6. Staff and chaperones are prohibited from the use and possession of alcohol or illegal drugs while with our teenagers or on our church property.
7. If you are driving teenagers, obey the law. Do not go over the speed limit and stay off your cell phone.
8. Do not be in closed quarters (a closed room, car, etc.) with an individual teenager. In general, male chaperones are expected to engage publicly with male teens, and female chaperones are expected to engage with female teens.
9. You will always put our teenagers needs above your own. You set the example of humility and service by giving up your right to having it "your way". This includes, but is not limited to, being last in line, sharing your food, giving up your chair, sleeping on the floor, being first to show up and last to leave, sacrificing your sleep for the good of a teenager, etc. You must live out Philippians 2:3
10. Give up your right as the disciplinarian. As a chaperone, you do not have the right to discipline and punish our teenagers. All those decisions will be left solely for the youth minister to make.
11. Chaperones will not speak in any way to teenagers that could be viewed by a reasonable witness as threatening, intimidating, shaming, derogatory, harsh, demeaning, cursing, or humiliating.