



A Ministry to Youth Grades 6-8

Parent / Youth Manual

2016-2017

Changing Lives that are Changing Lives

Parent Checklist

Read through manual so you understand the vision of the ministry.

Review the “Code of Conduct” and “Youth Discipline Policy” with your child/children.

Fill out the “Medical Release” form and return with this form.

Ask questions if you have concerns about vision, code of conduct, or discipline policy.

Complete signatures necessary to confirm that you have reviewed this material.

Would you like to continue doing AWANA memory verses towards scholarship opportunities? YES NO

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Youth Signature _____

Youth Signature _____

Youth Signature _____

VISION

Changing Lives that are Changing Lives

MISSION

To partner with parents to help students know God, own their faith and make God known.

STRATEGY

Seek: Reaching out to friends who need a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Grow: Learning to become a committed disciple of Jesus Christ.

Serve: Using our abilities to serve God by serving others.

Lead: Equipping our students to influence others in a positive way for Jesus Christ.

CURRICULUM

How much do you KNOW about God? Are you comfortable stating that you OWN your faith and that it shows in the way you live your life? Are you making your faith KNOWN through your actions and attitudes? That is the strategy, in a nutshell, behind this Bible study curriculum. We want students to know God, own their faith, and make their faith known.

KNOWN 12 Leader Guide

We do collect dues throughout the year to help offset the cost of curriculum. We ask that youth bring \$.75 a week or \$25 for the whole year.

BFC of Ephrata Youth Ministry

CODE of Character

Language (Ephesians 4:29)

Use words that build others up rather than swearing, abusive, and offensive language.

Cigarettes, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol (I Cor. 5:11)

No cigarettes or other forms of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol are permitted on the church property. These items will be confiscated and parents will be notified. In some cases, the police may need to be notified.

Fighting (I Thes. 5:11)

We seek to see students built up not torn down. We have zero tolerance for fighting. If a fight occurs, parents will be notified and in some cases, the police may also be notified (Definition: Physical contact that causes the youth to feel threatened).

Music (Phil 4:8)

Youth leaders reserve the right to determine if the music in the youth's possession is appropriate. Violations will result in leaders temporarily confiscating the source of music and related items. These items will be returned to your parents when possible.

Respect & Obedience of Leadership and Staff (I Peter 5:5)

All leaders and staff are to be shown respect and obeyed at all times. Open defiance or disrespect could result in students losing their opportunity to participate in activity. Further disobedience will result in a call being made to parents to come and get them.

Suspension

As a disciplinary action, the Youth Director (with Elder approval) reserves the right to suspend anyone from attendance at one or more future activities or to require offenders to be sent home in the course of any given activity. The Youth Director will request a parent conference before the suspension is removed.

Car Rides

Teens must arrive and leave with the same teen or adult driver, unless given parental consent in writing. If the young person has driven himself/herself or any other person to an activity/event, they must remain there until the completion of the event unless special arrangements have been made or parents arrive to pick them up. If a youth violates this, all the parents of the young people in that car will be notified. No youth is permitted to ride with another youth (unless they were driven to the activity by that youth.)

Cell Phones

Cell phones should be turned off during lesson times to allow students to be focused on God. Some events such as retreats are specifically intended to be a place to retreat from the distractions of everyday life. During those events, we ask that phones would not be taken.

Movies

Movies shown as a youth event will be approved by leadership. However, clips from movies may be used to teach without Elder approval. These clips will be approved by the Youth Director. For movies shown by leaders in their homes, similar discretion will be used.

Clothing

Wear clothing that is modest. Clothing containing distasteful language or pictures will not be permitted.

GIRLS: Bikinis are not permitted. Skirts, dresses and shorts should be fingertip length or longer in obedience to our call to modesty.

BOYS: Shirts must be worn at all times (exception – water games and swimming). (We will offer appropriate clothes or they can have appropriate clothes brought to the event.)

Weapons

Chains, knives, guns or any other items perceived by a leader or staff to be potentially harmful are not permitted at church, or at any youth function/activity. Items will be confiscated and only released to parents.

Designated Areas

Each youth activity will have “designated areas”. All other areas are considered “off limits” unless permission is given to enter another area for a specific time and purpose. Youth people found outside the designated area may not participate in the rest of the event. Instead, they will have the privilege of spending their time with a leader (in a visible place).

Purposeful Injury

Do not engage in behavior that could result in purposeful injury or harm to yourself or others. (You may not: kick, punch, bite, push, slap, pinch, poke, grab or tackle others.)

Disruptive Talk or Behavior

Participants should show appreciation and respect to leaders or volunteers who have taken the time and responsibility to prepare and lead the activity or class. Disruptive talk or behavior while a leader, teacher, or peer is sharing does not demonstrate dignity and respect. Any youth who is involved will be separated from the group.

Public Displays of Affection/Physical Contact

Kissing, caressing, back-rubs or other physical contact is not permitted at any youth activity/function.

Medical Release Form

You must have a medical release form filled out and signed by a parent– for each youth on any off-church property activity.

Church Insurance

Youth are covered on any youth outing/activity. One must notify the Youth Director and/or the church's Administrative Assistant to acquire information during an emergency.

Facility Rules and Regulations

Obey the rules and policies of the facility where an activity is taking place, for example—a park, a bowling alley, Pinebrook, etc.

Permission Slips

Teens must have a permission slip with emergency telephone numbers for emergency calls. Exception-during regular/weekly scheduled activities. Verbal permission may be obtained by a leader in the event this is not possible.

Promotional Release

Giving consent to the use of your child's image in any videotape, photographs, slides, audiotapes, or any other visual or audio reproduction. This is located at the bottom of the medical release form.

BFC of Ephrata Youth Ministry YOUTH DISCIPLINE POLICY

- 1a. Initial responses to minor infractions will be left to the leader's discretion.
- 1b. At any point in the disciplinary process, under the leaders' discretion, a student may be removed from the class and/or be brought into the presence of his/her parent(s) or the parents may be called.
2. The first consequence beyond verbal discussion is to sit out the rest of the activity.
3. The next level of the response should be a conversation with the student's parent(s) informing them that there is or has been a problem that they need to be aware of. (This should be done in person or over the phone.)

4. On-going problems need to be documented on an incidental basis by a youth leader and each incident will be initialed, and if at all possible, by another youth leader who was present.
5. The next step is a meeting between two youth leaders, a parent(s), and the student. At this meeting, the infractions will be established and communication will be made as to the next level of discipline that will take place. This will usually require suspension of the student from a non-regularly-scheduled activity.
- 6a. The discipline at hand would be approved by the Youth Director under the advice of the elders and administered by a youth leader and the Youth Director. This will also be confirmed in writing.
- 6b. If that student shows up at that activity after being suspended, the matter will be taken to the Board of Elders.
- 7a. Should the problem continue, the next level of discipline requires that a parent must accompany the student as a chaperone at the next activity that the student attends. Two youth leaders and the Youth Director will meet in person with the parent(s) and with the student present to inform them of this step.
- 7b. If that student attends the next activity without a parent chaperone, the parents will be called and the matter will be taken to the Board of Elders.
8. Consequent infractions will be handled by the Youth Director with two leaders present as witnesses. Discipline from the youth ministry will be in writing. At this point, the youth ministry may establish the activity from which the student must be absent. If the student continues his rebellious behavior by attending the stated activity, the parent shall be called to pick up the student.
9. The pastoral staff may be called in for counseling at any point in the disciplinary process.
10. To avoid misunderstanding, initially, a copy of these rules shall be placed in the hands of both students and parents. A copy of these rules shall also be signed by parents to confirm that they have been read over.
11. A copy of this policy shall be posted in the rooms that students affected by these rules attend.
12. Each September, a student will receive a new copy as a reminder.