

**OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES
DIOCESE OF DALLAS**

**DCYC 2014
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS**

Welcome to Diocesan Youth Ministry. The event you are attending may have several purposes but the most important is to bring Catholic youth together from across our Diocese to play, pray, learn and grow and get excited about being Catholic and an important part of our Church. Remember you are representatives of a respected Catholic youth organization. We expect you will represent your parish and diocese well during this event. Recall that you are a witness for your church to the press and dignitaries who will attend the event and we ask you to project an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity, and respect to everyone and to the property around you. We are confident you will display the maturity, responsible leadership and character, which have become the trademark qualities of Catholic youth ministry. Thank you!

Introduction

Parish group leaders are responsible for the actions of the members of their group. Each parish accepts full responsibility for any damage or theft caused by members of their group while attending DCYC 2014. Adult chaperones in each parish group are to help enforce the Code of Conduct and to set an example for their youth. All diocesan adult leaders and chaperones have been background checked, cleared and trained in compliance with the safe environment policies of the Diocese of Dallas. As such they have been given the authority to maintain safety and adherence to this Code of Conduct. Please give them your respect and cooperation.

General Rules

As a young person at DCYC, I will:

1. Respect each person whether youth, adult, child, in our group or not a part of our group. This is the cornerstone of our faith and a civil society. Respect includes verbal exchanges, physical and psychological exchanges as well. Inappropriate displays of affection as well as any abuse of another person will not be tolerated.
2. Honor the equality of all people, avoiding all forms of discrimination and respecting the dignity of each person without regard to economic status, age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or physical or mental abilities.
3. Use positive reinforcement and communication rather than criticism, unhealthy competition, or comparison.
4. Know that the purchase, possession, or consumption of beer, wine, other alcoholic beverages and the possession or use of illegal drugs by any individual will not be tolerated. The use of tobacco products by minors is prohibited. The purchase, possession, download or distribution of pornography is always inappropriate and inexcusable at any Catholic youth ministry event. Failure to comply with these rules can warrant immediate dismissal from the event.
5. Conduct myself in a manner that exhibits the highest Christian standards and respect to everyone and the property around me through my language, dress and behavior.
6. Be responsible and/or accountable for good stewardship of all resources.
7. Remember that vandalism to property is never allowed at any event. Such behavior can result in serious injury to persons and/or property. Offenders may be asked to leave the event and will be responsible for reimbursing the owner for damages.

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Event Specific Rules

As a young person at DCYC 2014, I will:

1. Be on time! Event sessions will start on time. Please arrive promptly and stay for the entire event.
2. Attend all DCYC event activities. Name badges must be worn at all times during the event.
3. Be aware of and adhere to emergency plans and instructions for DCYC 2014.
4. Uphold the authority of those responsible for the program or activity in which I am participating and assist them in every way to encourage learning and fairness.
5. Adhere to all event rules and curfews.
6. Be aware that due to schedule and safety concerns, the hotel pool area is off-limits for all DCYC participants.
7. Be aware of noise levels in lobbies, hallways and sleeping areas, especially later in the evenings.
8. Maintain the spirit of the event.
9. Report problems of any kind to a trusted adult

As a young person at DCYC, I will not:

1. Possess a weapon of any kind.
2. Possess, purchase, consume or distribute alcohol or illegal drugs.
3. Purchase, download, possess or distribute pornography of any kind.
4. Engage in any form of sexual activity or peer sexual harassment
5. Participate in any form of bullying.
6. Visit or gather in hotel rooms other than my own.
7. Leave the hotel or conference center without being accompanied by an adult and without the knowledge and approval of my group leader.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: I agree that my child shall abide by all rules and regulations as outlined in this event Code of Conduct. I understand that it is my duty to have reviewed it and explained it to my child prior to signing this form. I agree that if my child fails to abide by the Code or engages in any infraction of the Code whatsoever, that my child may be immediately dismissed from the event and sent home immediately at my expense, with no right of reimbursement for any amount in connection therewith.

I fully understand the importance and the consequences of the foregoing statements and sign this event Code of Conduct form knowingly, freely, and willingly. **(Your signature must appear below or your child will not be permitted to attend the event.)**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

YOUTH: As a member of the parish of _____ I understand and agree to the event Code of Conduct. I also understand and agree that my parent(s) or guardian will be notified at the time of any infractions requiring my dismissal from the event and that I will be sent home at my own or my parent or guardian's expense. I understand that the possession of any alcoholic beverages, drugs, cigarettes or weapons is cause for my automatic dismissal from the conference. **(Your signature must appear below or you will not be permitted to attend the conference.)**

Signature: _____ Date: _____