

Wesley Memorial UMC Youth Group Code of Conduct

The vision of the Wesley Memorial UMC Youth Ministry is to mentor and equip our students to develop a faith that exists outside of the church building. A walk with Christ that is dynamic, lived out, and shared beyond our church walls. As with any group, whether in a sports team, a club at school or even a job, there are certain rules and expectations provided which are there to help make the group stronger. As a youth group, we want to set a positive example for others of what it means to be a member of the body of Christ, so we must also hold ourselves to certain expectations. Here are some of the standards that we will strive to live up to as members of this church and youth group.

Luke 9:23—"Then he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"

The students of the WMUMC Youth Ministry seek to SERVE:

- **Submit to God** (James 4:7-8)
- **Examine Your Heart** (James 1:19-21)
- **Reach Out to Others** (Matthew 25:31-40)
- **Value Others Above Yourself** (Romans 12:10)
- **Exemplify Christ** (1 John 2:3-6)

Therefore, we act in accordance with our faith and our vision.

Youth Group Guidelines

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

- **Be Loving-** Show respect for everyone you come in contact with, by your actions and your words. Welcome others like family, break the notions of popularity, and promote the idea of Love! This means that making fun of others and cutting each other down is not acceptable.
- **Be Present-** Respect your brothers and sisters in Christ. An example would be, do not talk when someone else is talking. Put your phones away unless they're needed for the youth activity.
- **Be Aware-** Respect the facilities. Do not damage or destroy church property and always clean up after yourself.
- **Be Appreciative-** Keep a positive attitude. Show gratitude to those who you are with and the adults who give up their time because they care about you and your faith journey.
- **Be Appropriate-** Remember that you are an ambassador for Christ and this church, and your actions and words can provide a good or bad example.

- **Have Fun-** Enjoy the company of those around you. God made us for abundant life!

Youth Group Rules

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”
Romans 12:1

In General

- No obscene language.
- No drug, alcohol, or tobacco use.
- No weapons.
- No public display of affection with your significant other while at church functions. This detracts from our purpose.
- For the safety and well being of all, every meeting and event has physical boundaries. Stay within those boundaries.
- During youth events, cell phones should stay in the student's pocket or purse unless needed for the youth event. It is disrespectful and unhelpful to be on one's phone instead of paying attention to the leader or others around you. If there is a problem with cell phone usage and not respecting this concept, cell phone may be taken away until the end of the youth event.
- Always let adult leader know if/when you are leaving a youth event.

Church Trips

- All of the normal church rules and expectations, plus:
- Couples will adopt the “friends rule” for the duration of the trip. At all of our church functions, we want the focus to be on Christ and not each other, so if you are in a relationship, we will encourage you to “just be friends” on our church trips.
- Couples will not sit next to each other in vehicles while traveling. We want to encourage you to develop friendships with others in our group and not be focused only on the person you are dating.
- No sharing blankets or sleeping on one another in vehicles (unless you are siblings).
- Never be alone with a person of the opposite sex. Whether it is on a trip or here at church, always take another (third) person with you and stay with the whole group as much as possible.
- During free time, Sr. High youth can be in groups of 3 without a chaperone. Youth need to check in with youth designated youth leader every 2 hours. Jr. High need to always be with an adult chaperone.
- Sleep is a priority. The goals of the trip cannot be met and safety insured if people are exhausted. Our group will set its own curfew, which all members must respect. You must sleep in the room you were assigned and remain in your rooms after curfew unless there is an emergency.

- No girls in guys rooms or guys in girls rooms unless there is an adult or the door is kept open.
- Remember that no objects or liquids may be thrown from the balconies or windows of the hotel/retreat center.
- Clean up after yourself:
 - a. In vehicles- throw trash away at various stops and do not throw on floor
 - b. At host homes- make beds, do not leave clothes lying around, do not ask for or take food or items that are not provided for you, do not go “snooping” around
 - c. At other churches/venues (hotels, conference halls, etc.)- leave things better than they were before you came.
- Do not plan on listening to music for the whole trip. Enjoy the company of your youth group!
- Cell phones may be brought, but only used for calling (or texting) your parents only, if necessary, and for trip purposes, designated by Jane. No videos, gaming or internet usage, unless it is deemed necessary for the trip, by Jane. Do not bring other electronic devices.

Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior for All Church Activities

We gather together twice a week for a period of worship and study. We cannot allow disruptive behavior to detract from our time together and our focus on Christ. Disruptive or unsafe behavior on trips will not be tolerated either. Disruptive and unsafe behavior includes any violation of the Youth Group Rules as well as specific rules imposed for trips. The final authority determining of disruptive and unsafe behavior will be the Youth Minister. Consequences will be as follows:

1. Student will receive a verbal warning from the teacher or assisting adult.
2. If disruptive behavior persists, the parents of the student will be contacted and further action will be determined.
3. If needed, student will be sent home at his or her own expense. The youth leader will contact the student’s parents and it will be arranged that the student will be picked up from wherever the youth is located.

Jane's Personal Guidelines

I love to talk with you and hang out with you. Out of mutual respect, let us agree to the following:

- 1) Feel free to call before 10pm. If later, txt first and I will call you back if I can. Call or txt after 10pm for an emergency.
- 2) If coming over to my house, always call first and come in groups of 2 or more.

As a student in the WMUMC youth group, I have prayerfully read and understand the General Conduct Code and choose to adhere to it at all functions.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

As a parent of a teen in the WMUMC Youth Ministry, I have prayerfully read and understand the General Conduct Code. I support this Code of Conduct and expect my child to adhere to it at all times.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____