



**DIOCESE OF DULUTH
CODE OF PASTORAL CONDUCT FOR YOUTH**

As a youth volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing ministry to children and other youth.

As a youth volunteer, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or other youth at Church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism or competition when working with children and/or other youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or other youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Dress appropriately and not wear any clothing with offensive messages or pictures.
- Maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries with children/youth.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or other youth without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or other youth.

As a youth volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or other youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to children and/or other youth (i.e. no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or other youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or other youth.
- Touch a child and/or other youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or other youth.
- Use profanity at any time.
- Endorse any view contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Commit an illegal or immoral act.

I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in removal from my volunteer or work assignment. My signature below indicates that I have read and agree to adhere to the Code of Conduct above.

Youth Volunteer (Please Print)

Youth Volunteer's Signature

Date

Parish/School Program Director (Please Print)

Parish/School Program Director Signature

Date