

## **Zion Lutheran Church Youth Protection Policies**

**General:** It is recommended that all adults working with youth as volunteers or leaders complete national criminal/child abuse clearance checks. All adults participating in overnight youth events will be required to complete the same national criminal/child abuse clearance checks. A copy of these reports must be on file at the church. The church will pay for all fees, and will keep all information confidential. Results will only be shared with church staff and if needed with offsite event staff.

A minimum ratio of one adult per seven youth must be maintained for all overnight events. This ratio requirement must hold true for each sex as well. There should be no one-on-one contact between a youth and adult except in view of other adults and youth. If a confidential conversation needs to occur, it should be done in proximity to the rest of the group.

Youth events are to function with an open-door policy which states that when a youth visits the room of another sex the door must remain open. Also a boy-girl couple should not be alone in a room.

Illicit drugs of any kind, alcohol and or tobacco use by youth at a church youth event is strictly prohibited. Adults are also prohibited from using illicit drugs and alcohol at a church youth event. Adults are also encouraged to limit tobacco use, if necessary though tobacco products cannot be used in front of or within proximity to youth during an event. Adults must also maintain proper supervision of their youth at all times.

There are to be no weapons of any kind, firearms, or any disruptive items at any youth event. Also Violence of any kind will be prohibited, this includes physical discipline, verbal and/or physical harassment, and threats of any kind.

Adults and youth who feel they must have access to their cell phones or other electronic devices are to keep them on silent and only use devices responsibly and during designated free time. Use of any recording devices is prohibited in private areas.

**Transportation:** Only drivers aged 21 or over are permitted to transport youth during any church youth event. All drivers for church youth events must have and provide a photocopy of a valid driver's license and qualify for the vehicle being operated. They must provide proof of vehicle insurance for the vehicle being driven. Seat belts must be worn by all passengers in vehicles which are equipped with seat belts. All state traffic laws must be observed.

It is recommended that an adult never be alone with a youth or with two or more youth from the same family in a vehicle. If this is necessary, verbal permission must be given from the parent/guardian. Drivers should check with congregational policy on transportation and adhere to other restrictions or qualifications noted in such policies (example: minimum age of insured drivers, 12 or 15 passenger van limitations).

**Medical:** It is recommended that a person certified in First Aid and CPR be present for church youth ministry events. A well-equipped and fully stocked First Aid kit must be available and

maintained at all functions. Permission must be obtained for minors to receive over the counter medication from the event First Aid Station.

When specified by an event, a medical release form must be provided and fully completed for each participant of the event. The following information is required: a photocopy of participant's medical insurance card, the name of any medications that the participant is currently taking as well as the dosage and frequency each drug is taken, dietary concerns and allergies.

**Rooming:** It is preferred that youth and adults are not roomed together. If they must be, there must be at least two adults and at least two youth in each housing area.

There will be no rooming of mixed genders, excluding married couples. In large room accommodations male and female sleeping areas are to be clearly defined.

**Permission Forms and Registration:** Any youth participating in any church youth event must fill out the Youth permission information and release form which must be signed by a parent/legal guardian. This form will be kept on file and only needs to be filled out once per year. All youth will need to fill out new forms at the start of each year. All youth, adults and event staff are required to agree and sign the Covenant for any youth event.

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH COVENANT

As a participant of Zion Lutheran Church's youth events I agree to:

- Show respect for myself and all other participants of Zion Youth Ministries as well as the facility staff and property.
- Participate in all parts of the weekend
- Youth - NOT bring or use alcohol or other non-prescribed drugs including tobacco products; Adults -NOT use alcohol or other non-prescribed drugs.
- Abide by curfew times and quiet hours
- Not use offensive language
- Not engage in any sexual activity
- Abide by all Zion Youth Protection Policies
- Leave my cell phone or other electronic device behind or keep it silent during all activities.
- HAVE FUN!

A warning will be given for breaking the covenant about:

Respecting others    CurfewParticipation    Language    Open door policy

The participant will be sent home and/or suspended from future church youth events for repeatedly breaking the covenant items above or the following:

Illegal Drugs, alcohol or tobacco products    Violence    Sexual activity

The Youth Director or adult in charge will make all decisions concerning sending anyone home. If a participant is to be sent home, he/she will be financially responsible for any costs incurred.

Participant's name \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to live in this covenant for Zion Lutheran youth events. I understand the consequences if I choose to break this covenant.

Participant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parental/Guardian signature (if participant is registered as a youth)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_