

## Student Ministry Discipline Guidelines

### 1. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Students who make study or worship impossible for those around them need to be moved to an alternate location. Before dismissing that student from a class or service, leaders have a responsibility to tell a student that his/her behavior warrants dismissal. Students who choose to continue to disrupting after a warning, then should be dismissed. Leaders should inform parents when a dismissal has taken place. Leaders need to try and discover what is motivating a student to misbehave and seek to meet those needs if possible. In most cases, a student who has been dismissed from a group should still be welcome at the next function.

### 2. RESPECT FOR LEADERS

Students who choose to participate at FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH student ministry activities agree to follow the instruction of the leaders. All students must obey the instructions and exhibit respect towards leaders as a condition for remaining at any activity.

### 3. TRIP BEHAVIOR

The church assumes heavy responsibility when taking students out of town. For the student ministry to function well, obeying and respecting adult leadership is essential. A serious breakdown in these areas must result in the student returning home to parents at the parents' expense: Breaking curfew, possessing alcohol or tobacco products, leaving the group, engaging in intimate petting or sexual activities, possessing a dangerous weapon, or possessing illegal drugs are some of the reasons that would warrant a student immediately sent home. Parents will provide a way home for their student. By allowing a student to go on a trip, parents agree to allow the adult leadership the right to make the final decision about sending a student home.

### 4. WEAPONS

The physical safety of students is one of our church's top priorities. Therefore, no student may possess a gun, martial arts item, or any other weapon at any student ministry activity, whether at the church or away. The presence of a dangerous weapon will result in an immediate call to 911 and full cooperation with the authorities who respond. Actual confrontation with any teenager having a gun will be left up to the proper authorities. Parents of the involved student will be contacted.

### 5. NON-PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE

Parents have not assigned the church leaders the right to physically discipline teenagers—by this we mean corporal punishment. Therefore, leaders should only make physical contact with a student in order to prevent a greater harm, such as during a fight or an attempt to harm one's self. No other physical restraint is appropriate. We will, however, provide EO's (extra opportunities) to discipline minor infractions. An example would be a phone call to a parent and some type of chore to help students "burn off" energy if they refuse to go to bed during lights out.

### 6. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION (PDA)

"Making out" in trip vehicles and on church outings is not appropriate and receives the same discipline as any other broken guideline. Our student ministry policy is known as a "hands off" policy. 1. There will be no lying or leaning on the opposite sex at any time, even if you are tired. 2. No hand holding. 3. No kissing. 4. No Petting. The Student Minister has final say in all situations

### 7. SKIPPING

Church leaders can only be responsible for teenagers who are actually in an area designated for student ministry activity. Parents have no way of knowing whether their students are where they should be and consequently, whether adult leader supervision is being provided, if the teenagers are not where they should be. Therefore, the policy of our student ministry is to ask teenagers on church property or on related activities to be in the actual area where the announced activity is taking place. The only options open to students are to be in their designated class or activity area. Otherwise, they must call their parents to come and pick them up and leave, or to actually sit with their parents during this time frame.

### 8. DESIGNATED DRIVERS

The Church will provide approved adult-driven-vehicles for every activity away from the church. Licensed teenage drivers may take their cars only when it has been previously approved by the Student Minister for that individual youth to drive to an activity. Any student who travels with another student driver and not with the Student Ministry group will need prior parental consent via note or phone call to the Student Minister. Church leaders cannot be responsible for the safety of youth-driven cars and cannot guarantee the quality of driving. Also, church leaders cannot be responsible for youth who leave activities in youth-driven car.

### 9. VANDALISM

The church requests parents to ensure that their teenager pays for any vandalism or willful damage to any property.

### 10. DRESS CODE

The student ministry leaders realize that teenagers like to stay in style, however, they must also realize that modesty for both sexes is to be upheld. Therefore, our teenagers are required to dress appropriately at all times. This means that a standard of dress for church services and youth activities should be maintained at all times. Short shorts and mini skirts, "wife-beater" tank tops, and T-shirts with controversial sayings or innuendos are not considered modest for church attire. A one-piece bathing suit or a long tankini is requested when swimming (if a two-piece or a short tankini is worn, a dark colored T-shirt must cover it). Any habit, dress, or ornamentation that is contradictory to that sex is also be refrained from. Teenagers who repeatedly continue to disregard warning about their dress will receive the same discipline as any other guideline.

\*\*These policies are provided as written guidelines and ways to try and ensure clear communication among all members of the student ministry family, and are by no means intended to cover every situation. So when in doubt, DON'T. Hopefully, all of our teenagers and leaders will enjoy mutual respect in any discipline issues that may arise.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_