

HOPE STUDENTS

BOUNDARIES & GUIDELINES

As a small group leader, you are invested in students' lives and it is essential to practice healthy boundaries with students. Here are a couple of areas we want to highlight:

NEVER BE ALONE WITH A STUDENT

If you need to have a private conversation with a student, have the conversation in a public place - not behind closed doors.

TRANSPORTATION

We do not allow small group leaders to be alone in a car with the opposite sex.

MAINTAIN PHYSICAL + EMOTIONAL BOUNDARIES

No intimate or dating relationship among a small group leader and a student regardless of age difference.

COMMUNICATION

Be aware of interactions with students using your cell phone. Texting should primarily be between the same gender. Any texting with the opposite sex should only be passing along information in regards to Hope related events.

REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

If a student ever says, "I need to tell you something, but you can't tell anyone," never agree. Let them know that you'll need to inform the Hope Student staff if the student is being hurt, may hurt themselves, or may hurt someone else. Report any of these cases (proven or potential) to the staff immediately.

We want to do everything we can to honor Jesus in our ministry. Use careful judgment at all times, particularly when associated with and/or relating to students, either publicly or privately. We have identified a few areas in which we need to practice wisdom, discretion, and unity as a team:

ONLINE PRESENCE

Our lives online and offline are not separate. God calls us to honor him with our lips and this includes our online presence. Absolutely no foul language, inappropriate pictures, or cyber-bullying is permitted.

ALCOHOL + DRUG USE

We expect leaders to exercise wisdom and restraint in regards to their spiritual growth and the well-being of other believers. No small group leader may consume alcohol in the presence of Hope Students. Drug and underage alcohol use is never acceptable.

LANGUAGE

Our words are a reflection of our core. Refrain from swearing, coarse joking, rude remarks, gossip, inappropriate sarcasm and negativity. We also need to set an example against stereotyping and prejudices.

Hope Students Commitment

SIGNATURE

We ask for your signature as a sign of your commitment and excitement for Hope Students. We hope this brings clarity to the role of a small group leader and helps unify us as a team. We are in this together, you are not alone.

I, _____ having read and understanding the Hope Students Leader Boundaries & Guidelines, wish to join with Hope Students as a small group leader to disciple middle and/or high school students. I am committing to serving around 5 hours a week through large group gatherings, small group gatherings & contact work.

I understand that students need me to be consistent as a mentor, prayer partner and example of what it looks like to follow Christ.

I understand and agree to honor Jesus and the unity of Hope Students Ministry by *staying humble* and *teachable*.

By God's Grace this is my commitment,

_____ Date: _____