

Youth Ministry Code of Conduct

Northview Church of Christ - Students 6th through 12th Grade

Our youth group is a community that loves God and one another, continually striving to reflect Christ's love. This Code of Conduct helps us foster a safe, fun, and respectful environment where everyone can grow in faith and friendships. By following these guidelines, we honor God, protect each other, draw on proven wisdom, and build strong relationships rooted in trust and kindness. Participation in Northview's youth group requires adherence to these guidelines. By signing and returning below, you and your youth(s) agree to uphold them.

Core Promises of Participating Youth

1. **Respect Everyone.** Treat others the way you want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). This means showing kindness in your words and actions, valuing each person as an image-bearer of God, and avoiding any behavior that could hurt or belittle someone. No bullying, hazing, teasing, name-calling, gossip, or excluding anyone—everyone is welcome and deserves to feel included. A part of respecting everyone means respecting others' property. Whether that be the church van, church building, a camp cabin, a peer's packed bag, etc. Students are expected to respect others with regard to their property as well.
2. **Participate with a Positive Attitude.** Engage in activities, listen during teachings, contribute to discussions, and encourage others. Bring your best energy! This creates an uplifting atmosphere where we can learn about God together, share ideas openly, and support one another in our faith journeys. If something is confusing or challenging, ask questions respectfully to promote growth for all.

3. **Follow Directions.** Listen to and obey youth leaders and chaperones immediately. This ensures everyone's safety and keeps activities running smoothly. Leaders are there to guide the group and make our time together enjoyable and secure—following their instructions demonstrates maturity and helps prevent accidents or disruptions. This is even more imperative when our group is off church property. Thus, if a youth cannot be responsible by properly listening to adult leaders, they cannot handle participation in the youth ministry.

During Events

4. **Permission Slips.** For travel or overnight events, required permission slips will be given that outline specific instructions regarding packing and behaviour for that activity, and they are expected to be filled out and returned BEFORE the event, and preferably before the day-of the event.¹
5. **Stay Safe and in Designated Areas.** Remain in areas where leaders can see you or expect you to be. Never leave the building or event without permission or direct communication with a youth leader. This protects you from potential dangers and allows leaders to account for everyone, especially during games, outings, or transitions.
6. **Use Appropriate Language and Behavior.** Speak kindly—no swearing, crude jokes, or put-downs. Keep hands to yourself (high-fives and side hugs are fine; no pushing, wrestling, or rough play). Appropriate behavior builds a positive community, reflects our Christian values, and ensures no one feels uncomfortable or disrespected.
7. **Be Responsible with Technology.** Phones are mostly unnecessary during youth activities and events—please follow instructions for each one. At times, students may be encouraged to use their phones; other times, they must be put away completely. Parents should have

¹ Northview leadership and the Youth Minister reserve the right to deny a youth event access for any reason, even if a youth has parental/legal guardian permission.

the youth minister's and, when applicable, other adult leaders' phone numbers for urgent contact. No photos or videos of others without permission. No private messaging with adults outside of approved group channels like GroupMe for accountability. Earphones and earbuds for listening to music also fall into this category.

Responsible technology use prevents distractions, protects privacy, and focuses us on real relational and spiritual connections.

8. Substance-Free Zone, Energy Drink Ban, & Responsible Medications:

No tobacco, alcohol, drugs, vapes, or related paraphernalia of any kind. Due to the increase in heart conditions developing in youth due to overconsumption of energy drinks and simply the natural effects of large amounts of caffeine in youth, they are not permitted during ANY youth event. If medication is needed during an event, inform the youth minister discreetly—especially for overnight trips, where a detailed medical form is required, and medications may be turned in. This maintains a healthy, focused environment aligned with our church's teachings, legal standards, and overall well-being.

9. No weapons. No weapons or items that could be used as such, including pocket knives. While some students may be regarded as responsible with tools like knives, widely allowing them creates inconsistencies and potential risks. Please leave all such items at home or in your vehicle to ensure a safe space for everyone. If one is brought, your youth will be required to turn it in, where it will be held safely until the event/activity's completion.

10. Zero Tolerance for Sexual Misconduct. Avoid any form of sexual harassment or inappropriate behavior, including sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or advances; spreading rumors of a sexual nature; or pressuring others for romantic or physical involvement. Respect personal space and boundaries at all times. Such actions violate our commitment to a safe, Christ-centered community and will not be tolerated. Report concerns immediately to a trusted leader for

support and resolution. Note: Youth leaders and church staff are mandatory reporters under North Carolina law.

11. **Youth Event Transportation:** Licensed youth are permitted to drive themselves to and from a youth event, given that the event is within a 30-minute radius of the church building. Rare exceptions can be made with the permission of the Youth Minister. Seek event details for more specifics. A licensed youth is permitted to drive their non-driving siblings freely under these guidelines. A licensed youth is permitted to drive other non-related youth if they receive consent from their parents/legal guardians under the same guidelines. The church van will be the primary source of transportation for events beyond a 30-minute radius of the church building, or if a large number of participants is expected. If the van is being used, driving and non-driving students alike are expected to ride in the van to the event. All persons must have a valid, up-to-date, and complete transportation form on file. Only vetted adult leaders and chaperones, aged 25+, are permitted to drive the church van.

Miscellaneous Policies

12. **Aging Out of Youth Group:** While we appreciate the years of involvement, no youth stays a youth forever! Our youth group is for 6th–12th graders only. Once you complete 12th grade, you will transition to college-aged classes or other age-appropriate church programs. During your final year, we encourage responsible mentoring of younger members. After aging out, you may attend special events as a guest or helper with leader approval, but regular participation is reserved for current members to preserve age-appropriate dynamics and safety.
13. **Occasional Event/Church Camp Costs:** Most Youth Group events are free to our youth, but there are a few times a year when participation does come with a ticket price. If costs are going to be an issue, don't

fret! We have procedures in place so that a youth can participate regardless of their financial situation.

Retreat/Winterfest Scholarships - If financial assistance is required for a youth ministry retreat, please reach out to Jonah or one of our elders. Partial scholarships can be granted with approval. Full scholarships can be applied for on a case-by-case basis. We will respect your discretion and appreciate your desire for your youth's involvement!

Carolina Bible Camp (CBC) Scholarships - If financial assistance is required for our local church camp, there are two steps to work through:

- a. **Step 1:** Head over to <https://carolinabiblecamp.org/scholarships> and fill out their scholarship form. Your student will be asked to write a very simple letter as to why they want to come to camp. You will also need to ask one of the ministers or the eldership to write a letter of recommendation for them to turn into the camp on your behalf. I have on good authority that many of the annual scholarships go unclaimed every year. They will guide you through their simple scholarship process.
- b. **Step 2:** If CBC is unable to give out a scholarship or an unpayable cost remains, once again, please let Jonah or one of our elders know, and we can work something out with congregational donors. Due to limited funds and demand, Northview will only be able to assist for one (1) week of Christian summer camp.

How We Handle Problems

- **First time:** Two adult leaders will speak with you privately, remind you of the guidelines, explain their importance, and discuss how the boundary was crossed.
- **Second time:** Your parents/guardians will be notified, and we'll collaborate on improvement strategies.
- **Repeated issues:** Under the oversight of Northview's eldership, you may be required to sit out activities, meet with your parents and the youth minister, or face suspension to protect the group's safety and godly culture.

We uphold justice and safety while extending grace and second chances. If a mistake occurs, own it, learn from it, and move forward. Both these guidelines and our leaders are here to support your growth in faith and character.

PLEASE KEEP THESE POLICIES FOR YOUR REVIEW, AND PLEASE FILL OUT AND DETACH THE SIGNATURE FORM BELOW & TURN IT IN TO JONAH BEFORE THE NEXT YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT. ONCE ON FILE, YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO FILL OUT ANOTHER FORM UNLESS OUR POLICIES ARE CHANGED/UPDATED. THANK YOU!

NV Youth Ministry Code of Conduct

My Commitment

"I have read and understand the Youth Group Code of Conduct. I agree to follow these guidelines as a requirement for my (my child's) participation in Northview's Youth Ministry." *SIGN BELOW*

Youth Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Youth Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Youth Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Youth Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____