

YOUTH CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to assure the safe and successful participation of young people and adults at gatherings sponsored by agencies and organizations of the Diocese of Boise, the following norms of behavior are to be followed. We expect you to represent your parish, school and the Diocese of Boise well during all gatherings! We hope that you will display the mature, responsible leadership and character that has for so many years been the trademark of Catholic Youth Ministry within this Diocese.

SOME NORMS FOR PARTICIPATION...

1. Individuals are *responsible for their own actions*, and will be asked to assume the consequences for their inappropriate behavior.
2. Participants are expected to take direction from those adult leaders who have been placed in positions of authority by the parish. Model positive behavior by being on time and respectful of event.
3. Purchase and/or use of tobacco products by minors is illegal. In observation of both the law and good health practices, **smoking or chewing tobacco by participants is not allowed.**
4. The purchase, possession or consumption of BEER, WINE or OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES by minors will not be tolerated. Infraction of this rule will mean immediate dismissal from the event.
5. The possession or use of ILLEGAL DRUGS by any individual will not be tolerated. Infraction of this rule will mean immediate dismissal from any event and appropriate action will be taken.
6. For the protection and safety of all participants, **acts of violence or harassment** will not be tolerated. Violence and harassment include fighting, physical or verbal assault or abuse, ethnic insults, profane or obscene language, gestures or actions.
7. Possession of any **weapon** is strictly prohibited. Any one who brings a weapon to an event or gathering will be asked to surrender the weapon to leaders and appropriate action will be taken.
8. **Disruptive behavior, language, clothing or items** will not be acceptable at youth events. This includes any of the above, which is obscene, profane, or inappropriate to the activity of the church or group.
9. It is illegal for minors to take part in any organized form of **gambling** and therefore such activity is strictly prohibited. Any other gambling activity is also strongly discouraged.
10. In the unlikely event that a behavior problem based on the above requires extreme action; it is likely to result in dismissal from the activity. Parents will be contacted and participants will be sent home, at the parent's expense.

PLEASE NOTE: *The Diocese does not insure personal property against theft or loss so please exercise caution regarding your own personal property.*

You are expected to observe the above guidelines in light of Idaho State statutes and definitions even though the events may take place in another state or country. (EXAMPLE: The legal drinking age in Idaho is 21. This age will be the norm followed even when in a place where the legal drinking age is lower.)

We respectfully ask for your cooperation and hope that you will have no trouble adhering by this simple code of behavior. The major thing to remember is that you represent the Church and are asked to project an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity and respect to others and to the property around you.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE CODE OF CONDUCT AND WILL ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENTS DICTATED BY THIS CODE.

Youth's Signature

Date

Group Leader's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

—This form should be kept on file by the parish coordinator of youth ministry.—