

A brief description of the activity follows:

Diocese of Fort Worth Code of Conduct, Expectations of All Participants & Dress Code

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify personal behavior that is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the Diocese of Fort Worth. The items within the Code are based upon performance and are designed to protect the welfare of all participants.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Respect for Others:** Youth will maintain a Christian witness, respecting the dignity of each person. Youth are expected to respect themselves and others. Youth will also respect church property and the personal property of others.
2. **Active and Positive Participation:** Youth will engage positively in all activities, contribute to the group in a meaningful way and follow the instructions of all adult leaders.
3. **Respect for Authority:** Youth will comply with the guidance and direction provided by Diocesan and Parish employees and volunteers.
4. **Respectful Conduct:** Youth will refrain from causing disruptions. Disruptive behavior, including harassment, intimidation, and bullying, will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
5. **Christian Language and Attitude:** Youth are expected to use language that reflects a Christian attitude, avoiding profanity, foul language, or any speech that disrespects others or the faith.

GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:

1. **Respect for Physical Boundaries:** Physical contact such as tickling, wrestling, piggyback rides, and other inappropriate touching is strictly prohibited. Inappropriate physical displays of affection, including kissing, frontal hugs, sitting on laps, and laying or sleeping next to another person are not allowed. Youth should not be isolated or alone with one other person.
2. **Sexualized Behavior and Harassment Prohibited:** Any behavior of a sexualized nature, or behavior that gives the appearance of being inappropriate (whether intentional or not), is strictly prohibited. This includes sexual harassment, inappropriate touching, and any actions that could make others uncomfortable. Engaging in sexual intimacy, engaging in lewd or lascivious behavior, or possessing lewd or lascivious material (i.e., pornography) during diocesan and parish activities is prohibited and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. Any illegal activity will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
3. **Dress Code:** Youth are expected to wear modest clothing that reflects respect for themselves and others. Clothing that is sexually suggestive, degrading, or inappropriate in any way is not permitted. T-shirts or other items with inappropriate content, such as vulgar, evil, offensive, or illegal messages, are prohibited. Clothing should not reveal midriffs, low-cut tops, spaghetti straps, or see-through materials. Pants should not sag to show underwear, and shorts should meet the standards of a Catholic school dress code.

SAFETY AND WELL-BEING:

1. Youth are expected to stay with the group at all times during parish or diocesan events and activities. Leaving early or being absent from the group requires prior written approval from a parent or guardian to the supervising adult.
2. You are not permitted to bring any weapons (such as knives or guns) to any parish or diocesan event or activity.
3. Youth are strictly prohibited from using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or any other non-authorized or illegal substances at any diocesan or parish event or activity.

In the event that a youth violates this Code of Conduct, protocols as outlined by the Pastor and/or Staff/Volunteer in charge will be followed. Disciplinary action may include removal from the event/program or other consequences deemed appropriate. The Diocese of Fort Worth reserves the right to take necessary actions to ensure the safety, respect, and well-being of all participants.

I, the undersigned, have read and fully understand the above Code of Conduct, Expectations of All Participants & Dress Code. I agree to abide by these rules and uphold the values of the Diocese of Fort Worth in all events and programs in which I participate.

YOUTH PARTICIPANT Name _____

Parent/Guardian/Conservator Signature _____ **Date** _____

By checking this box ☐ and typing your name above, you have agreed that this is your electronic signature.

If you do not wish to sign this document electronically, Please print the document, sign, and mail to your parish.

This form "Consent to Participate, Code of Conduct, and Consent for Emergency Medical Treatment" must be attached to the Parent/Guardian/Conservator Permission, Liability Waiver, and Medical Information (FORM A) for each event attended. Forms A and B must travel to and from each trip away from the church. Forms OA and OB are required for all Out of State events.