

# **YOUTH MINISTRY GUIDELINES FOR EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH HENDERSON, TX**

**PURPOSE:** To provide a communication guide as to what our expectations are for everyone involved in the Student Ministry of Emmanuel Baptist Church. There needs to be proper guidelines in place for any group to function in an organized way. Therefore, the intent of this document is for clarity, not confusion.

**BEHAVIOR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Students are encouraged to actively participate in their Sunday School class. However, students who make Bible study impossible for those around them will be removed from the class and will spend the remainder of the class time with the Youth Minister or with his or her parents. If a parent is not at the church, he or she will be notified of the student's misbehavior.

\* **Cell phones must be turned off or on silent and NO text messaging at any time!**

**BEHAVIOR DURING WORSHIP:** Students are encouraged to actively participate in the worship services by singing praises to our Creator and absorbing the teaching of God's Word! This is not a time of writing notes to each other, or any disruptive behavior. It is a time for corporate worship of our Savior. Parents are responsible for the behavior of their students during the worship service. If a parent is not at the church, the student will spend the remainder of the service with a Student Ministry leader.

\* **Cell phones must be turned off or on silent and NO text messaging at any time!**

**DRESS CODE:** Our dress code is with Christian modesty in mind. Parents are to make sure that their student is dressed appropriately. This means to not wear any clothing that would draw attention to your body. Chaperones on trips have permission to suggest a change of dress at any time they feel the need to do so. The clothing you wear and your general appearance are important. Good grooming is a part of your testimony.

**LOCATION OF YOUTH:** Church leaders can only be responsible for students who are actually in an area designated for a youth activity. It is our policy that all students on church property must be at the actual area in which the announced activity is taking place.

**PHYSICAL AFFECTION:** Our goal and heart's desire is to promote and encourage moral purity for both leaders and students. This is the standard for which all physical interaction is measured.

**PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE:** Parents have not assigned to church leaders the right to physically discipline their son or daughter. Therefore, leaders only make physical contact with a student in order to prevent a greater harm, such as during a fight, in self defense, or an attempt to harm one's self.

**RESPECT TOWARD LEADERS:** Students who choose to participate in Emmanuel Baptist Church youth activities agree to follow the instructions of the leaders. If a student has a problem following instructions, his or her parents will be notified as soon as possible and appropriate action will be taken.

**SPEECH:** "Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be."- James 3:10, NIV. Therefore, profanity will not be tolerated at any time. What comes out of our mouths has the potential to build someone up, or tear someone down. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29, NIV.

**SWIMMING REGULATIONS:** Our swimming regulations are based on the dress code policy that states, “Our dress code exists to promote Christ-like character within our students.” Keep in mind that “modest” means to not draw attention to one self. Another interpretation would be, “the more skin covered, the better!”

\* Girls should wear a modest one-piece swimsuit. A tankini is permitted if it covers your body like a one-piece swimsuit would.

\* If a girl does not have a one-piece swimsuit or proper tankini, she must wear a shirt over her swimsuit.

\* Boys should wear modest swim shorts.

**Water safety:** Emmanuel Baptist Church assumes no responsibility for accidents, injury, or death on or near the water. We recommend everyone, swimmers and non-swimmers wear a life jacket at all times, while on or in the water. Parents should instruct their student as to the safely hazards associated with boating, swimming, and all water related activities. We recommend using a “Buddy” system, in that you always know where your “Buddy” is, and vice versa, while in and on the water.

### **TRANSPORTATION:**

1. Only church approved drivers are permitted to drive the church vans.
2. Parents are responsible for all student driven vehicles.
3. Parents are also responsible for their student who rides in another person’s vehicle.
4. The church, church leaders, church staff or church members cannot be responsible or held liable for the safety of youth driven cars and cannot guarantee the quality of driving or proper insurance.
5. State law requires that church-provided cars and vans must have a seat belt available for every passenger. There must not be any more passengers in a vehicle than what the law requires.

**TRIP POLICIES:** EBC assumes a lot of responsibility when taking youth out of town. As a result, obeying and respecting sponsors is essential for the youth group to function well. Students may be sent home at the parents’ expense if there is a serious breakdown in this area. If a problem arises, if it is possible, a leader will provide transportation home for the student. If this is not possible, the parents or legal guardian will come pick the student up or pay for commercial transportation home. Parents or legal guardians agree to support the sponsors’ decisions about sending a student home, knowing that only those present on the trip can know all the circumstances involved.

1. It is to be understood that any rule or guideline that is not mentioned in our guidelines but is required by a camp or retreat where our youth are present will also apply to our students.
2. Boys & girls are not allowed to visit in the same room without an adult chaperone present when staying in a motel, at a camp, or retreat.
3. We recommend using the “Buddy” system on all trips. Students should not be anywhere by themselves for safety reasons.
4. Students are encouraged to bring music with Christian lyrics only. Your responsibility if lost or damaged! There may be some trips where this is not permitted by a camp or retreat setting.
5. Fighting, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, pornography, tobacco products, leaving the group, intimate petting, stealing, and fireworks are all not permitted at any youth group activity.
6. Inappropriate pictures on cell phones and inappropriate text messaging are not permitted. Cell phones will be taken away from any student who chooses to do this and given to his or her parents after the trip is over.

**WEAPONS:** The physical safety of the youth group is one of our church’s top priorities. Therefore, no student may possess a gun, martial arts item, or any other weapon at any youth group activity at the church or away. **THE PRESENCE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON MAY RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE CALL TO 911 AND FULL COOPERATION WITH THE AUTHORITIES WHO RESPOND!**

**“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.” I Timothy 4:12 NIV**

**Having read the Youth Ministry Guidelines of Emmanuel Baptist Church Henderson, we (parent and student) agree to follow these guidelines.**

---

**YOUTH PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE**

---

**DATE**

---

**PARENTS'/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE**

---

**DATE**

**\* NOTE: We MUST have a medical form, (filled out and signed by a parent or legal guardian), and a Youth Ministry Guideline form, (signed by a parent or legal guardian and student), on file at the church on all students who participate in the youth activities of Emmanuel Baptist Church. (In particular, students who go on overnight trips or other events away from the church property).**