

Calvary's' Student Ministries Expectations

We value our students and our families and we would like for both student(s) and parents to read through this entire document so please initial on the side after each paragraph (Parent on one line and student on the other) so there will be a record of both student and parent reading this document. Students come to youth events to learn about God and make lifelong friendships. Behavior that hinders this goal, individually or corporately, *will not be accepted*. **Therefore, at any student ministry events all youth (and adults) will be expected to...**

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Respect authority. Our staff care deeply about youth, and want to protect and help disciple them. God has put us in positions of influence and authority for the purpose of teaching, equipping, and training them in His ways. It is essential that we all learn to respect authority so that we will learn to obey God and have the blessings that come with obedience to Him.

- *Hebrews 13:17 "Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God."*
 - *Deuteronomy 32:46-47 "Take to heart all of the words I have given you today. Pass them on as a command to your children so they will obey every word of this law. These instructions are not mere words – they are your life! By obeying them you will enjoy a long life."*
- ___ | ___

Speak and act with love. We want our student ministry to be a place where students come for encouragement, comfort, understanding, and friendship. It is a place where we learn to work out our differences and difficulties with truth and love, behavior that is unloving will not be accepted.

- *1 Corinthians 13:4-5 "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged."*
 - *Ephesians 4:29 "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."*
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Stay with the group at all times. Students come to our ministries and our events to be with the group. There is rarely a need for a student or group of students to separate themselves from the group without staff permission. When this happens this causes disunity, cliques, and hard feelings. It is also unsafe for the staff to be unaware of student's activities or location. There are other groups using our building and we want to respect their programs as well.

- *Ephesians 4:3 "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*
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Keep electronic devices turned off (cell phones, gaming devices, iPods, etc.). These devices distract others from focusing on what is being taught and on building friendships! It is selfish to ignore other students and staff by spending time using electronics while we are together as a group. If a student has a legitimate need to make a phone call, they can ask permission from a staff person or use the phone in the lobby. Parents can reach their student by calling a lead staff person. If a student breaks this rule, a staff person will retain the device until end of the event. **In MS ministry we encourage you to just leave it at home or in the car.* There will be times when HS ministry uses devices in our program as we attempt to help the student discern proper times to use devices and times to leave them off.

- *Phil 2:3 "Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing."*
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Avoid public displays of affection. Holding hands, sitting close, hugging, kissing, and other forms of PDA will not be accepted because it is distracting and uncomfortable for the rest of the people in the group. We encourage students and dating staff to set a high standard of purity in their relationships, so that they can keep their focus on God.

- *1 Timothy 4:12 "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity."*
 - *1 Timothy 5:1-2 "Treat younger men as brothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."*
- ___ | ___

Dress with modesty. Our purpose in being together is to grow in Christ and Christian friendship. Therefore it isn't appropriate to dress in a way that causes others to be tempted to think about us in a way that is impure. If a staff person feels that your clothes are not modest, we will ask you to put on other clothes. *For summer events, please wear a modest swimsuit and bring along t-shirt and shorts to wear during group activities.

2 Corinthians 6:3 "We try to live in such a way that no one will be hindered from finding the Lord by the way we act."

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CONSEQUENCES FOR DISOBEDIENCE

As Calvary Youth Staff, it is our goal to handle problems immediately, consistently, and in a spirit of love and gentleness. Using scripture, we will show students how their behavior is not pleasing to God, and is harmful to themselves or the student ministry. The staff will always seek a result that includes confession, forgiveness, and restoration. Failure to follow the expectations will result in the student experiencing the following consequences:



--If a student is engaging in some sort of behavior that has been described above, staff will remind the student of our expectations. **(strike one)**

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--If behavior continues we, the staff, will move the student away from the distraction. **(strike 2)**

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--If behavior continues still we, the staff, will move on to Dismissal from event or program. **(strike 3)**

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Correction from youth staff. We will engage with a student on the **"3 strike rule"** and we believe most behavior can be corrected in the first 2 strikes.

Dismissal from the event For on-sight instances a student will be brought to a caring adult who will be with the student while the student calls a parent for immediate pick-up. For an off-sight instance a parent will be contacted right away to determine the best course of action. These actions will be at the discretion of the staff in concordance with our policy, the attitude of the student and the availability of a parent / guardian.

It is our desire for all students to have the opportunity to be at every event, but when a student violates the expectations, they interfere with other students' opportunity to learn about God and experience Christian community. It would not be fair or loving for us to allow a student to interfere with God's work in the lives of other students. As a result of a dismissal, the student may receive a **suspension from a future student ministry event or program.**

It is our prayer that students and families would use this time away to teach and prepare for a return to the ministry with a right attitude and willingness to obey.

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We strongly believe that our behavior is an outward expression of an inward reality. Meaning... if a student is habitually acting out there is a heart issue that needs to be addressed. Pastoral staff is willing to come along side and aide parents in **their** parenting responsibility upon request.

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I have read the rules and consequences and agree to submit to them. Please turn this in with your annual health form or at your convenience.

Parent signature: _____

Student signature: _____

Youth Pastor signature: _____