

Volunteer Job Description: Chaperoning

Youth Ministry Event: _____

Date / Time / Location: _____

Thank you so much for supporting OLPH Youth Ministry! Sharing your time and your talents with young people is key to a successful youth ministry program at our parish. To help you feel more confident in your role, here are some helpful hints:

- **Be positive!** There is a definite energy to youth ministry events. Don't be afraid to laugh, smile and have a good time along with the youth. You are not just an authority figure trying to control the noise volume. Allow yourself to have a good time.
- **Be active!** Kids always seem to warm up to adults who are participating right along side of them. If you are asking them to play a silly game, don't be afraid to be silly. If you are asking them to share their faith, open up and share your story. If you are asking them to be calm and get ready for bed, get your PJs on and get ready for bed. It is all about being a role model!
- **Follow the rules!** It is hard to enforce rules we don't follow ourselves. For example, we ask the young people to leave their cell phones at home. The reason this is a standing youth ministry rule is because we want to keep the young people from excluding themselves from the group by chatting on the phone instead of participating fully in the activities. Although I do not want you to leave your phone at home, I do ask that you refrain from taking non-emergency calls while on the trip.
- **Be where the kids are!** At all times, we want to be wherever the young people are. You won't find an adults-only lounge at a youth ministry event.
- **Keep safety in mind!** This is kind of a no-brainer. If you see a young person who appears to be doing something dangerous... feel free to stop them. You are their surrogate parent for the time they are on this trip.
- **Do not put yourself in an awkward situation.** We ask that you never take an individual youth away from the larger group without informing another adult. We ask that, if you are responsible for transporting a young person, that you never drive alone with a child. Always take a second adult (who is not your spouse) with you. If you need to confront a child who is acting inappropriately, take a second adult with you if the situation allows.
- **Do not hand out any medications.** The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has recently enacted policies that forbid volunteers and employees from dispensing any medications, including over the counter medications such as Tylenol, ibuprophen and cough drops. If a child needs medications or medical attention, please have them see the Youth Ministry Coordinator.
- **Get them involved!** If you see a young person who seems to be withdrawn from the activities, don't be afraid to intentionally befriend them and invite them to join you. It is easy to stick with the kids you know or who are friends of your child - however, we do have some kids on this trip who need a little extra push to get involved.
- **Don't be afraid to ask... anything!** If you have a question about what we are doing (an issue of safety, a reason for a particular rule, a suggestion to make the agenda flow more smoothly, etc.) ASK!

OLPH Youth Ministry

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“It takes a whole Church to do Youth Ministry!”