

POLICIES

of OLPH Youth Ministry

Participants and guests:

- All youth in grades 6-12, who are members of the parish of OLPH or attend OLPH School are eligible to participate in YM activities.
- Participants are expected to behave in a Christian manner and exhibit behavior appropriate to the program.
- Participants are expected to stay for the length of each event in which they are involved. Special arrangements may be made if an emergency or unusual circumstance arises.
- Guests are welcome to join in YM activities and events. Participants are responsible for their guests and guests must observe the same rules as participants.
- The number of guests permitted at each activity may be limited at the discretion of the Youth Ministry Coordinator.
- Use or possession of illegal substances is strictly forbidden. Parents of those involved will be immediately notified of the situation and required to pick up the youth. Participation in future activities will be at the discretion of the Youth Ministry Coordinator.
- Youth and adults will not be allowed to smoke or use smokeless tobacco products while participating in Youth Ministry events.
- Movies rated “R” will not be viewed at any activities sponsored by OLPH Youth Ministry. No movies above “PG” will be viewed by junior high youth. Music, computer, video games use is at the discretion of the Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Volunteers:

- Adult volunteers must be age 21 or older.
- Adult peer leaders are age 18-21. Peer leaders are to assist chaperones as needed.
- All adult volunteer and peer leaders must attend a VIRTUS training program in order to be eligible as a volunteer. In addition, we require each volunteer to submit to a criminal background check every five years.
- A minimum of two adult volunteers are required for any event or activity.
- The ratio for in-house events is one adult volunteer for every fifteen youth. For events held off parish property, the ratio must be one adult volunteer for every eight youth.
- Adults will be briefed by the Youth Ministry Coordinator as to their specific duties and responsibilities. This briefing should occur prior to the event in written form or at a pre-event meeting.
- All adult volunteers must behave in a safe, responsible manner and follow the same rules that apply to youth.
- Adult volunteers and peer leaders are not permitted to smoke, use smokeless tobacco products or consume alcohol during youth ministry events.
- When chaperoning an overnight activity, adults and peer leaders who are over the age of 18 may not sleep in the same room with the youth. Instead, they are asked to sleep in a separate area within proximity of the youth sleeping quarters.

Transportation:

- Drivers for all youth ministry events must be age 21 or older, hold a valid drivers license and insurance.
- Drivers must obey all laws and observe the posted speed limit.
- For trips over 50 miles, drivers will be reimbursed for fuel costs.
- Each vehicle transporting youth must have a seatbelt for each passenger. All persons in a vehicle must wear a seatbelt.
- There must be at least two adults in each vehicle when transporting youth. Spouses need to be in separate vehicles or a third adult must be present.

Parish Youth Facilities:

- Parish facilities are available for the use of participants as determined by the parish staff. In order reserve parish facilities, please contact the secretary at (812) 944-1184.
- While using parish facilities, youth must maintain a careful and respectful behavior.
- Maintenance problems should be reported to the Youth Ministry Coordinator or other staff member immediately.
- Rooms not in use during a scheduled Youth Ministry event should be off limits to youth and adult chaperones. It is recommended that the lights be kept off and the doors open.

Permission Slips, Registration & Fees:

- Medical information will be collected for each participant. This information will be kept on file for twelve months and must be updated yearly.
- Event fees are due at the announced deadline. Youth submitting fees late may be accepted at the discretion of the Coordinator of Youth Ministry.
- Permission slips are required for all youth when leaving the parish property. If the group will be leaving the property, a copy of medical releases must accompany the group.