

DIocese OF NEW ULM
MINOR CODE OF BEHAVIOR AGREEMENT
For Supervised Volunteers under the Age of 18

Name of AFC/Church/School/Diocesan Office

While working as a youth volunteer, **I will:**

- * Protect and guide children and other youth (minors) and vulnerable adults entrusted to my care at all times.
- * Treat everyone with patience, courtesy, respect, and dignity.
- * Be positive, supportive, and caring in my speech and interactions with minors and vulnerable adults.
- * Use positive words and encouragement to change behavior and encourage others to do likewise.
- * Maintain appropriate physical and emotional boundaries with minors and vulnerable adults. Examples of permissible physical contact include:
 - * Brief side hugs or an arm around the shoulder.
 - * Brief pat on the shoulder/upper back.
 - * Holding hands while walking with young children or those unsteady.
 - * Brief touching of hand, head, shoulder or arm.
- * Always be in the presence of an appropriate trained, safe environment program compliant adult when interacting with minors or vulnerable adults. This means that an adult should be nearby to **see and hear** what I am doing and help me if I need assistance. I understand I am to always be under the direct supervision of an adult trained in VIRTUS who is compliant with diocesan Safe Environment requirements. I will rely on the program supervisor to assign me to appropriately trained adult(s). I am responsible to see that I never place myself in an unsupervised situation.
- * Promptly report to my supervisor any inappropriate or bullying behavior.
- * Promptly report suspected abuse to my supervisor or if it involves my supervisor, report the incident to the next person in a supervisory role, such as a principal or pastor.
- * Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse.
- * Observe confidentiality when describing my work experiences to protect the identity of those whom I serve.
- * Dress appropriately, consistent with my role and assigned activities, including not wearing any clothing with offensive or profane messages or pictures.

While working as a youth volunteer, **I will not:**

- * Use or possess tobacco products.
- * Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time.
- * Be under the influence of prescribed drugs that impair judgment.
- * Use or allow profanity in the presence of minors or vulnerable adults.
- * Verbally or physically abuse or threaten anyone.
- * Tolerate inappropriate or bullying behavior.
- * Provide or allow sexually explicit, violent, disrespectful, or otherwise inappropriate communication, music, recordings, films, games, websites, computer software, mobile device application, or other content to be used.
- * Touch a minor or vulnerable adult in an overly affectionate or inappropriate manner.
- * Privately communicate (electronically or through any other communication form) with an unrelated minor more than two years younger than myself or an unrelated vulnerable adult whom I serve when not working or volunteering.
- * Accept gifts from or give gifts to minors or vulnerable adults without approval from my supervisor.

Other _____

Youth Agreement:

I have read the Code of Behavior expected of me during the events for which I am assisting with; I agree to fulfill these responsibilities. I realize that I am representing my family, my church, and the group with whom I am attending the events. My behavior will be respectful of all people and of myself.

Printed Name of Minor

Signature of Minor

Date

September 2007
Updated September 2015