



Riverside Church Youth Behavior Contract

Our Goals:

The Riverside Church Youth Group is a safe place. Our goal is to become more like Christ. The ultimate purpose for every activity our group does is to help teens fall more in love with God.

We will succeed as a Youth Group if we create an environment where everyone gets to be who they are. To do this we will need to maintain certain boundaries so that fun times are fun for everyone and more serious times are shared by everyone.

Purpose for the code of conduct:

- To support a safe and enjoyable environment for all members of our Youth Group.
- To provide clear and explicit expectations for social behaviors in all Youth Group settings.
- Provide leaders, students, and staff with appropriate actions that address student behaviors.

Parents, guardians and caregivers who have any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the Associate Minister of Youth and Young Adults in the Education Office.

Our Expectations:

Be responsible...

Clean up after yourself before going home.

Everyone present at youth group is expected to participate in planned activities.

Be respectful...

Always treat fellow youth members, visitors, leaders, and any guest speakers and musicians with dignity and respect.

Student-to-student harassment is prohibited at youth group. Verbal and physically harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. This may take many forms and can be physical, verbal or written.

Examples of sexually harassing behavior include stalking, dating abuse, making obscene gestures, making sexual comments, remarks or insults, stalking, pressure for sexual activity, spreading rumors of a sexual nature. The Riverside Church follows the NYC Department of Education Student-To-Student Sexual Harassment Policy.

Raise your hand to speak in class. Do not interrupt others.

All perspectives are to be listened to carefully and responded to in a courteous fashion. At no time should derogatory comments be made about anyone or her/his opinions.

Do not physically or verbally abuse others. This means that under no circumstances should you bully, hit, gossip about, throw something at, or make fun of another person.

Words matter...we follow the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Taking another youth or leader's property is unacceptable unless express permission has been given to you by the owner of the object (i.e. cell phones, iPods, etc.)

All cell phones/iPods/electronic devices should be turned off during all activities unless otherwise stated. If phones are seen out they will be taken up and be given back at the end of the activity.

Be safe...

At no time should a youth group member wander off or leave the premises without adult supervision or prior permission.

At no time shall a youth group member enter the youth room without a youth leader present. If the youth room door is closed students are to wait outside.

At no time shall a youth group member be unsupervised in the building – youth are allowed to be in the Nave, South Hall or youth room accompanied by a leader. Youth are not to wander the halls during the service.

Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, weapons, or fireworks are never allowed at youth group events.

Be respectful to group leaders...

Youth group members are expected to recognize the authority and responsibility of all youth group leaders by obeying instructions and following proper respect. Before most events, general guidelines will be laid out for the group. Anyone who breaks the guidelines may be dismissed from an activity.

Responsibilities of Parents / Guardians

- Respect, understand and support all leadership and policies of the Riverside youth group
- Recognize and understand that youth leaders and personnel must enforce the above rules and policies to ensure a safe learning environment for all.
- Teach your children to respect the rights of others and to follow youth group rules.
- Emphasize the importance of being a model person in both the home, the church, and in the community!

Justice In The City Student Pledge:

- As a member of the Riverside youth group, I pledge to follow the Code of Conduct, to respect others and myself, and to treat everyone in my church community with fairness and consideration.
- I understand and agree that church and youth group must be a positive and cooperative environment so that everyone can learn and grow.

- I understand that my regular attendance is a key to spiritual and community growth.
- I understand that violence, disruptive behavior, and abusive language are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Covenant Prayer: Loving God, you remind us that wherever we are, we are representing Christ, our Church and our families. These guidelines will help us honor each of these people by the way we live and behave! Help us to love you and our neighbors above all things. Amen.

Student and Parent Acknowledgment

Youth (Name printed and signature)

Date

Parent(s) (Name printed and signature)

Date

By signing this document you agree to abide by the above expectations and understand that failing to abide by said expectations can and will result in consequences as outlined on the reverse of this document.

Consequences for Misbehavior

The consequences for misbehavior outlined below aim to exemplify grace and forgiveness. It is our goal that any student who receives any offense learns from it and returns to Youth Group with a clean slate. We desire to have all students participating in all activities and will not hold prior offenses against students who have already completed the consequences for such (assuming that a pattern does not emerge) – students are held accountable for their behavior, but not condemned.

Consequences for Offenses:

1st Offense: The student will receive a verbal warning.

2nd Offense: The student will be pulled aside by a leader to discuss the offense.

3rd Offense: The student will be pulled aside by a leader and will be asked to call his/her parents, explain why they are calling (i.e. what actions got them into trouble), and ask to be picked up immediately. At this time, the student will receive advance warning that the next offense will result in suspension from Youth

Group for 1-2 weeks and a in-person parent and student meeting with the associate minister of youth and young adults shall be scheduled.

Youth Group leaders reserve the right to determine the severity of misbehavior and may choose to skip or modify any of the above stated consequences.

Students who reach 3rd Offense multiple times may lose privileges including, but not limited to, Youth Group, single day events, and/or attendance at overnight events (i.e. retreats).