

## **Volunteer Code of Conduct**

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of The Diocese of Charleston.

As a volunteer, I will:

Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.

Avoid situations where I am alone with children and/or youth at Church activities.

Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.

Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.

Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.

Report any suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and the appropriate local agencies. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities.

Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

As a volunteer, I will not:

Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or youth.

Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.

Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.

Pose any health risk to children and/or youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).

Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.

Humiliate, ridicule, threaten, or degrade children and/or youth.

Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.

Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.

Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.

I understand that as a volunteer working with children and/or youth, I am subject to a thorough background check including criminal history. I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal as a volunteer with children and/or youth.

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Volunteer's Printed Name

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Volunteer's Signature

Date