

Introduction

The following material is designed to be a tool for the youth parents at CHBC. This is not a rule book though there are many “rules” that are included. The primary purpose is to be a reference manual which could be easily and quickly referred to for specific policy and procedure questions for youth related issues.

The goal of this manual is to have better informed parents, less confusion and more consistency in carrying out youth group policies. Our desire is that you as parents will help us in the carrying out of the policies and procedures listed on the following pages.

The youth ministry here at Colonial exists to partner with parents in raising their teenagers for the glory of God. It is our desire that the youth ministry here at Colonial will be a blessing to both you and your teenager. This manual, and other information available through the youth pastor’s office, is for the purpose of helping parents accomplish their God-given responsibility in shepherding their teens.

May God give you grace as you raise your teens in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Pastor Caleb

Drugs/Alcohol

- Any beverages that have alcoholic content, regardless of how large or small, are absolutely prohibited. Under no circumstance, will alcoholic beverages be permitted by teenagers or adults.
- Anyone found partaking of alcoholic beverages will be immediately sent home from any youth activity or service at their own expense. They also will be suspended from attendance at further youth activities until the matter is completely resolved to the satisfaction of the Youth Pastor.
- Any type of drug use is prohibited in the youth department. Under no circumstance will teens be allowed to distribute, consume, or engage in drug related activity.
- Any teen found distributed or consuming drugs will be immediately sent home or to their parents from a youth activity or service at their own expense. They will be suspended from attendance at youth activities and will be subject to the youth pastor's supervision and direction when attending services. Failure to comply will result in them being sent to their parents.
- Authorities will be contacted when necessary to address any above situation.

Dress

Wednesday Night Dress Code (Fall/Winter/Spring):

1. Guys – pants should be worn for services (not tight, no ripped jeans). T-shirts, polo shirts, or long-sleeved shirts are all appropriate to wear.
2. Girls – pants should be worn for services (not tight or conforming, no ripped jeans). T-shirts or long-sleeved shirts are all appropriate to wear, no plunging necklines.

Wednesday Night Dress Code (Summer):

1. Guys – shorts and T-shirt are appropriate. No short-shorts (no shorter than 2 inches above the knee) or tight clothing.
2. Girls – shorts and T-shirt are appropriate. No short-shorts (no shorter than 2 inches above the knee) or tight clothing. No plunging necklines.
3. For water night both guys and girls are expected to wear dark clothing (not see through) and abide by the above dress code. No swimsuits.

Sunday Dress Code:

1. Guys – dress slacks and button up shirt. Shirt and Tie or Sport coat without a tie is required for any platform service opportunities (testimonies, special music, etc...)
2. Girls – knee length dresses or skirts. No form-fitting outfits, no plunging necklines.

5 O'clock Hour

- This is a focused time for our church and teens are no exception. During 5 o'clock hour, teens must be in the prayer time with the men or women, serving in some capacity, participating in choir, or in the auditorium.
- At no time are teens permitted to wander the church or the property.
- If teens are found wandering they will be asked to join their parents.

Dating

- While the youth pastor will not be involved in telling teens they can or cannot date in high school, he will reserve the right to address relationships in the youth group during services or activities. Here are a few examples:
 1. The youth pastor or youth staff may confront a couple if they are engaged in hand holding during an activity or service.
 2. The youth pastor or youth staff may instruct a couple to sit apart from each other during an activity or service.
 3. Youth group is about inclusion. An interested couple often becomes the smallest form of a clique and threatens the unity and enthusiasm of the group. We respectfully request that boy-girl interests be carried out at home where parents can advise and supervise. Students will be discouraged from coupling off in the youth group.

Service Expectations

1. During the service on Wednesday night, only the downstairs bathrooms will be utilized by teens and youth staff. Upstairs bathrooms are off limits for the night.
2. When a teen steps out to use the bathroom, a youth staff member will step out and verify where they are. Guy with a guy and girl with a girl. If a teen is gone for an

unreasonable amount of time, the youth staff member will check on them to make sure things are ok.

3. All teens must engage in the game/activity portion of the night. If a teen is not participating, the following policy will apply:
 - a. The teen will be asked to participate.
 - b. If they refuse, youth staff will explain to them that if they will not participate, they will be sent over to sit with their parents in the main service.
 - c. If they still refuse, youth staff will explain that their parents will be notified and will be coming over to the youth center to deal with the situation.

4. All teens are expected to listen and engage in the service portion of the night. This includes the following:
 - a. Sitting up straight in their chairs (no sleeping, no slouching, etc...)
 - b. Limiting talk between themselves
 - c. Singing during the song time
 - d. Answering questions during application time
 - e. Not using phones during the service time

5. All teens are expected to be in the main youth room area of the building when they arrive.
 - a. Teens are not permitted to be in the bunk rooms (unless approved by the youth pastor)
 - b. Teens are not permitted to be up in 3rd floor (unless approved by the youth pastor)
 - c. Teens are not permitted to be in the Burmese auditorium, any hallways, or main floor areas (unless approved by the youth pastor)
 - d. If a teen is found in one of these locations, they will be reminded that they are to be downstairs with the rest of the group; if they do not comply, parents will be contacted and asked to deal with the situation.

Music/Earbuds

1. Earbuds and headphones are prohibited in the youth department during any service or activity.
2. Any teen who is seen with earbuds during a service or activity will be asked to hand them over to a youth staff member. They may pick them up at the conclusion of the activity or service.

3. Any music played on a teenagers phone must be consistent with CHBC's music policy. Rap, rock, etc... will not be tolerated during service or activity times (this includes bus rides).

Phones/Media

1. While the youth pastor will not restrict a teen from having or bringing a phone to youth group, he will reserve the right to direct the use of it during a service or activity.
2. Teens are expected to use a paper copy of God's Word during a service, phones should not be used for a Bible during service or activities. For those who do not bring a paper copy, we have plenty of extras!
3. A teen who fails to comply may be asked by a youth staff member to put their phone away. A youth staff member may also take their phone for the remainder of the service or activity if it is becoming a distraction. The teen may pick up the phone after the service or activity.
4. The youth pastor reserves the right to collect phones at any activity, service, bus ride, mission trip, camp, etc... and to redistribute them at his discretion. Phones are kept in a locked box for security and parents may reach out to the youth pastor or youth sponsors on the trip at any time if there are concerns.

Waiver

1. A waiver must be signed by parents for every teen involved in an activity or trip in the youth department.
2. Any teen who hasn't filled out a waiver will not be able to participate in an activity or trip until it is signed.