

**OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES
DIOCESE OF DALLAS**

**DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS**

Welcome to Diocesan Youth Ministry. The event you are attending may have several purposes but the most important is to bring Catholic youth together from across our Diocese to play, pray, learn and grow and get excited about being Catholic and an important part of our Church. Remember you are representatives of a respected Catholic youth organization. We expect you will represent your parish and diocese well during this event. Recall that you are a witness for your church to the press and dignitaries who will attend the event and we ask you to project an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity, and respect to everyone and to the property around you. We are confident you will display the maturity, responsible leadership and character, which have become the trademark qualities of Catholic youth ministry. Thank you!

Introduction

Parish group leaders are responsible for the actions of the members of their group. Each parish accepts full responsibility for any damage or theft caused by members of their group while attending the diocesan event. Adult chaperones in each parish group are to help enforce the Code of Conduct and to set an example for their youth. All diocesan adult leaders and chaperones have been background checked, cleared and trained in compliance with the safe environment policies of the Diocese of Dallas. As such they have been given the authority to maintain safety and adherence to this Code of Conduct. Please give them your respect and cooperation.

General Rules

1. Respect each person whether youth, adult, child, in our group or not a part of our group. This is the cornerstone of our faith and a civil society. Respect includes verbal exchanges, physical and psychological exchanges as well. Inappropriate displays of affection as well as any abuse of another person will not be tolerated.
2. Participants must attend all event activities. Name badges, if provided and appropriate must be worn at all time during the event.
3. All participants must refrain from drinking, and the use of illegal drugs. The use of tobacco products by minors is prohibited and is strongly discouraged for all other participants. The purchase, possession, or consumption of beer, wine, other alcoholic beverages and the possession or use of illegal drugs by any individual will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with these rules will mean immediate dismissal from the event. All participants, including those of legal drinking/smoking age are expected to comply with these rules.
4. Event sessions will start on time. Please be on time.
5. No weapon of any kind may be possessed by a conference participant.
6. Remember that vandalism to property is never allowed at any event. Such behavior can result in serious injury to persons and/or property. Offenders may be asked to leave the event and will be responsible for reimbursing the owner for damages.

(Continued on other side)

Event Specific Rules

1. If a young person must leave during the Retreat hours, please bring a written note, signed by your parent/legal guardian. The young person and their chaperone must present the note to the ABLAZE 2015 Representative for Sign Out when it is time for the young person to leave. If the young person comes back to the Retreat later that day, parent/legal guardian is responsible for bringing the young person to their designated chaperone.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: I agree that my child shall abide by all rules and regulations as outlined in this event Code of Conduct. I understand that it is my duty to have reviewed it and explained it to my child prior to signing this form. I agree that if my child fails to abide by the Code or engages in any infraction of the Code whatsoever, that my child may be immediately dismissed from the event and sent home immediately at my expense, with no right of reimbursement for any amount in connection therewith.

I fully understand the importance and the consequences of the foregoing statements and sign this event Code of Conduct form knowingly, freely, and willingly. **(Your signature must appear below or your child will not be permitted to attend the event.)**

Signature: _____ Date: _____

YOUTH: As a member of the parish of _____ I understand and agree to the event Code of Conduct. I also understand and agree that my parent(s) or guardian will be notified at the time of any infractions requiring my dismissal from the event and that I will be sent home at my own or my parent or guardian's expense. I understand that the possession of any alcoholic beverages, drugs, cigarettes or weapons is cause for my automatic dismissal from the conference. **(Your signature must appear below or you will not be permitted to attend the conference.)**

Signature: _____ Date: _____