

## SAFETY AND APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT A YOUTHWORKS SITE

We want you to know that we are, at all times, concerned with safety. We not only want you to be safe—we want you to feel safe. We want this for you, ourselves, and for community members. Every person deserves to feel comfortable in their surroundings, and to feel safe physically, sexually, emotionally and spiritually.

Having an environment where we all feel and are safe is dependent on properly observing boundaries and exercising respect. Here are some essential safety standards that must be followed during your mission trip experience here:

- Know, remember and respect the boundaries of the YouthWorks mission site, and of work and/or ministry sites. They exist because we want you to be safe.
- Always travel in groups of three or more—never in groups of two or by yourself.
- Students must always have an adult leader present when working at a ministry site or otherwise spending time in the community, and any time when leaving the boundaries of the mission site.
- Cell phone and camera use is not allowed in sleeping rooms, bathrooms and showers in order to respect the privacy and boundaries of those around us.

We must show honor and respect to one another and to the property of others. This includes our interaction with fellow students, Adult Leaders, YouthWorks staff and community members. We must have an attitude of stewardship toward the belongings of others, this housing site and places in the community we visit during the week. This means treating their property with even more care than we would want our own to be treated.

Also included in showing proper honor and respect is the observance of personal boundaries and appropriate physical touch. Treat people as they would like to be treated, not as you think they would like to be treated. Here are some examples of “comfortable touch” and appropriate behavior, as well as examples of “uncomfortable touch” and inappropriate behavior:

### Appropriate Behavior / Comfortable Touch:

- Someone we know well, we know casually or recently met who touches us in an affirming way, pats us on the shoulder or back, high fives or shakes our hand, or touches us in such a way that we feel comfortable.
- Someone thanks us for spending time with them, or thanks us for our assistance.
- Someone who looks or smiles at us in a nonthreatening way.
- Someone who is respectful of our boundaries.
- Someone who speaks to us in a positive, affirming way, or pays us a compliment.

### Inappropriate Behavior / Uncomfortable Touch:

- Someone who touches our bodies in any place a bathing suit would cover, or rubs up against, hugs or touches us in such a way that we are immediately uncomfortable—especially someone touching, rubbing up against, or hugging us without our permission.
- Someone who forces us to have unwanted sex or forces us to take part in any other type of unwanted sexual contact.
- Someone who stares at us for a long period of time or smiles at us in such a way that we feel uncomfortable or threatened.
- Someone who is NOT respectful of our boundaries.
- Someone who curses at us, speaks to us in a derogatory manner or makes sexualized comments or jokes.

### What you should do if you are treated inappropriately:

1. **Say NO!** Let the other person know you are uncomfortable with what they are saying or doing.
2. **Leave the situation, and immediately tell an adult whom you trust.** This can be a YouthWorks staff person, an Adult Leader from your church, or from another church. Our staff and your leaders will take all allegations seriously, and want to help you. Harassment of any nature will not be tolerated.