

Ryley Good News Community Church
Youth Group
Code of Conduct
Revision 2-09/15

The vision of the GNCC's youth group is to mentor and equip our teens to develop a faith that exists outside of the church building, and a walk with Christ that is dynamic, lived out, and shared beyond the church walls.

Objective:

The objective of this Code of Conduct is to provide a secure and predictable environment for Youth Group activities.

Scope:

The Code of Conduct was approved by the Youth Leadership Team and will apply to everyone present at a youth function. This includes parents, visitors, youth, children, adults, leaders, and church staff. The Code is not a substitute for a parent's rules or parental judgment. Each parent remains responsible for his/her own son/daughter, and must continually work to assure their own level of comfort with Youth Group activities.

Exception Process:

Any section of the Code can be temporarily suspended with the consent of the youth's parent(s) and the Youth Leadership Team. The Code suspension must be approved by the youth's parent and a member of the Youth Leadership Team prior to the suspension of the rule.

Dispute Resolution:

It is recognized that issues may arise with interpretation and implementation of the Code of Conduct. When this occurs, the concerned parent(s) must first discuss the issue directly with the adult(s) involved. If resolution is unsuccessful, the issue can be elevated to the Youth Leadership Team. If resolution is still unsuccessful, the issue can be further elevated to the Deacon Board of the Good News Community Church. Addressing issues in this manner is consistent with the Biblical teaching for dispute resolution.

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Communication:

The Youth Group Code of Conduct shall be communicated to youth and parents in the following ways:

- Distributed annually at the first youth group event of the year.
- After a major code change.

Youth Group Code of Conduct:

- Show respect for everyone with whom you come in contact by your actions and words. This means that making fun of others and cutting each other down is not acceptable.
- Respect the facilities, the church, transportation vehicles, and homes into which you are invited (i.e. no standing, walking, or running on furniture or chairs, clean up after yourself, etc.)
- Once at a youth group activity, youth are under the responsibility of the Leadership Team and therefore are not allowed to leave the activity without prior consent from the parent given to one of the Leadership Team. If a youth leaves an activity without the proper consent, the youth will not be allowed to return to that evening's event and their parents will be contacted and advised accordingly.
- Transportation to various events shall be the responsibility of the Youth Leadership team. However, youth shall not drive youth, once they have arrived at the Church as they have not been approved by the Church and the Church has no control over their driving abilities. However, if a youth wishes to provide their own transportation to an event, that youth shall only become the responsibility of the Church or Leadership team during the actual event and not during transportation.
- To mitigate any issues that might arise while youth are being transported to the various activities, male and female youth will not be allowed to sit together in the same seat unless they are separated by one of the Youth Leadership team.
- No obscene language or gestures
- No drugs or alcohol use
- No weapons
- Public displays of affection while at church functions are inappropriate. This detracts from our purpose as we meet together. Youth leaders will model appropriate behaviour.

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- For the safety and well-being of all, every meeting and event has physical boundaries (ie. over aggressiveness or competitiveness during games). Stay within these boundaries.
- During devotion time, you must remain seated to avoid disrupting the group.
- No Youth Leadership Team member is allowed to be alone with a non-relative youth of the opposite sex during any Youth Group event, unless prior consent has been given by the youth's parent(s). This includes transportation during an event.
- Youth Leadership Team members are allowed to be alone with same sex youth as ministry frequently occurs on that level.

Dress Guidelines:

It is important that your dress be appropriate, in order to be holy and pleasing to God. Clothing should not be disruptive or bring unnecessary attention to the wearer. The following are not considered appropriate:

- Bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, see-through clothing, tube tops, and halter tops
- Visible undergarments. Pants should be worn at waist/hip level without undergarments showing.
- Dresses, skirts, shorts, skorts, and garments that are shorter than the wearer's finger tips with the arm and hand fully extended. If a garment has a slit, the top of the slit shall not be higher than the wearer's finger tips with the arm and hand fully extended.
- No clothing with offensive or obscene graphics and/or words.

If you would not wear it to church on Sunday morning or school than it is likely inappropriate for Youth Group. Youth dressed in an inappropriate manner will be asked to change into different clothes or the youth may call their parent(s) to bring new clothing or to take the youth home.

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Consequences of Inappropriate Behaviour:

Disruptive or unsafe behaviour will not be tolerated. Disruptive and unsafe behaviour includes any violation of the Youth Group Code of Conduct. The final authority regarding what is disruptive and unsafe will rest with the Youth Leadership Team.

Consequences will be progressive, unless the severity of the offense warrants a higher level of consequence:

First Offence: The youth will be taken aside, given a verbal warning regarding his/her behaviour and given an opportunity to correct it.

Second Offence: The youth will be required contact his or her parent(s) to explain the problem. A member of the Youth Leadership Team will then speak to the parent to ensure that the parent understands the situation. Appropriate consequences will be enforced.

Example: A youth intentionally disregards the physical boundaries and walks across the street to a Tim Horton's. The youth will be requested to call his or her parents and everyone will have a discussion. As an appropriate consequence, the youth will have an opportunity to form a lasting relationship with a chaperone for the remainder of the trip.

Third Offence: The youth will contact his or her parent(s) to explain the problem and arrange for transportation home. A member of the Youth Leadership Team will then speak to the parent to ensure the parent understands the situation.

Additionally, the youth will not be allowed to attend the next two GNCC Youth Group activities away from the church building, however they will be welcome to attend on non-trip Friday nights.

Once reinstated, if the youth exhibits additional inappropriate behaviour, he/she will not be allowed to attend any GNCC Youth Group activities away from the church for a minimum of three months.

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Definitions:

Youth leadership Team:

The adult leaders that are appointed by the Church Board and have undergone the appropriate screening process as outlined in the Good News Community Church Bylaws.

Youth:

A person will be considered eligible to attend youth group activities if;

- they are in Grade 7 and will be turning the 13 years old during the Youth Group calendar year (Sept – June)
- they are in Grade 12 and have not turned 19 during the Youth Group calendar year. Once they have turned 19, they are considered as an adult and therefore, could attend youth group activities as an adult leader, once they have undergone the proper screening process.

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Acknowledgement:

As a youth in the Good News Community Church Youth Group, I have read and understand GNCC's Youth Group Code of Conduct and agree to adhere to it at all GNCC Youth Group functions.

Youth Name: _____

Youth Signature: _____

Date: _____

As a parent of a youth in the Good News Community Church Youth Group, I have read and understand the GNCC's Youth Group Code of Conduct. I support the Code and expect my child to adhere to it at all times.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____