

Sample Youth Ministry Retreat Policies

Devices

Our policy for the weekend is that students are not permitted to have cell phones, iPads, or other devices with them on the trip. All participating churches have agreed to this policy. Should you see a student with a device, feel free to confiscate it yourself or to inform the youth pastor. If a student asks to call home, you're free to let him or her use your phone to make a brief phone call.

Medication

Students are never allowed to self-medicate at ministry events, retreats, or trips unless special arrangements have been made (for example, some students do carry their own inhalers and EpiPens). Should you see a student with prescription or over-the-counter medication, please inform the youth pastor immediately. Parents have all signed their agreement to this policy, so it should not be an issue!

Cabin Time

For the safety of students and leaders, we want to have two leaders in a cabin with students at all times. Students should not be unattended in the cabins, with the only exception being during morning leaders' meeting.

During morning leaders' meeting, we will have a male leader patrolling the boys' cabins and a female leader patrolling the girls' cabins. They will pop in and visit for a moment (making sure students are awake!) before moving on to continue rounds. After the meeting, please return to your cabin to make sure all students are at breakfast or in the gym. No one should be in cabins after 8:00 a.m.

During free time, students should not be hanging out in cabins except to change clothes.

Here are some other guidelines for cabin time:

- Please try to shower when students are not using the showers.
- Take clothes with you to and from the shower, rather than walking through the cabin in a towel.
- Please refrain from sitting on students' beds.

The Gospel at the Heart of All Things

The purpose of our retreats is for students to hear and experience the gospel of grace over a concentrated period of time. Adult leaders are asked to be prayerful and attentive to opportunities in which they might point students to Jesus. This means that we pour ourselves out to serve students as Jesus has done for us, that we extend grace even as we draw necessary boundaries, and that we seek students out for spiritual conversation throughout the weekend.

Whatever questions are provided for our small groups, please try to land each discussion by talking about the gospel. This means you'll need to clearly point to human sinfulness and our need for God's grace—and then show how God has extended this grace by sending Jesus to bear the punishment we deserved in his life, death, and resurrection. Please let students know that you are available to talk with them more about this Good News throughout the weekend and beyond!