

# Code of Behavior and Norms for Youth Participants

## Events Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Seattle

In order to assure the safe and successful participation of youth and adults at gatherings sponsored by the Archdiocese of Seattle, the following code of behavior is to be followed. You are expected to represent your parish, school, and the Archdiocese during all gatherings. You are encouraged to display the mature, responsible character which has for so many years been the trademark of Catholic Youth Ministry within the Archdiocese.

### **SOME NORMS FOR PARTICIPATION:**

1. Individuals are responsible for their own actions, and will be asked to assume the consequences for their inappropriate behavior.
2. Parish leaders should screen youth participants for their own protection as well as others. This screening must be used to identify areas of concern or special attention (i.e., health concerns, disabilities/impairments requiring extra accommodations, history of violence, etc.)
3. The purchase and/or use of tobacco products by minors is not tolerated.
4. The purchase, possession, or consumption of beer, wine, or other alcoholic beverages is not tolerated. Infraction of this means the immediate dismissal from the event.
5. The possession or use of illegal drugs by any individual is not tolerated. Infraction of this means the immediate dismissal from the event, and further action will be taken.
6. For the protection and safety of all participants, acts of violence or harassment are not tolerated. Such acts include fighting, physical or verbal assault/abuse, ethnic insults, and profane or obscene language, gestures, or actions.
7. Possession of any weapon is strictly prohibited. Anyone who brings a weapon to an event will be asked to surrender it to leaders and further action will be taken.
8. Disruptive behavior, language, clothing, or items are not acceptable at events. This includes any which is obscene, profane, or inappropriate to the activities of the Archdiocese.
9. Appropriate clothing is expected.
10. Any form of gambling is strictly prohibited.
11. Participants are expected to take direction from their parish adult leaders.
12. In the event that behavior requires extreme action, it is to result in dismissal from the event. Parents will be contacted and participants will be sent home.

The Archdiocese of Seattle does not insure personal property against theft or loss; please exercise caution regarding your personal items.

You are expected to observe the guidelines above in light of Washington State statutes and definitions. The Archdiocese of Seattle respectfully asks for your cooperation and hopes that you will have no trouble adhering to this code of behavior. Keep in mind that you represent the Church at all times during the event and are asked to demonstrate an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity, and respect to others and to the property around you.

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CODE OF BEHAVIOR ABOVE AND WILL ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENTS DICTATED BY THIS CODE.**

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Participant's signature

Date

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Group Leader's signature

Date