

Sunset Church of Christ

Youth Group Disciplinary Guidelines

We are so glad that your student is a part of our youth group! Sunset's youth ministry is dedicated to leading students into knowledge of our Lord, an understanding of his Word, and a personal faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. We are also committed to helping parents effectively teach and prepare their students to be responsible, faithful Christian adults.

To achieve those goals, Sunset's youth ministers, youth deacons, and other youth workers must minister to individual students as well as to the group as a whole. Part of that ministry involves enhancing and encouraging good behavior and Christian service among our students. Another part involves discouraging activities and attitudes that are detrimental to both the individual and the group. Using Paul's words to Timothy, we are to "correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction."

In that light, it is sometimes necessary to enforce discipline within the youth group's various settings. This letter is to let you know the general guidelines that are in place to assist youth ministers and other youth workers when disciplinary action is warranted. Sunset's youth minister(s) will be responsible for enforcing discipline at all youth functions, either directly or through delegation. Regardless of who is "in charge," the main concern for all youth workers is for the health and safety of the students in both a physical and spiritual sense. Obviously, the following guidelines are not necessarily all-inclusive as not every situation can be anticipated.

Classes and Assemblies

For general classroom/assembly disruptiveness, a "three strikes" approach may be used as follows:

1. If a student is being a distraction to others, a minister or other adult helper will quietly ask the student to stop his/her behavior, be quiet, and pay attention.
2. If the student continues to be disruptive, a minister or other adult will escort him/her out of the room to a designated area for the duration of the class/assembly. A youth minister will then discuss the matter with the student and detail the consequences if the unacceptable behavior continues into the next class time. The youth minister will also contact you (or another primary caretaker of the student) of the problem to discuss the situation.
3. In the next class/assembly time, if the poor behavior continues, the student will not be allowed to participate in any non-class youth activities (including out-of-town trips) for one month and could forfeit any payments already made for such activities. During that month, the student will be welcomed in class but will be required to sit with a designated adult apart from the student's friends.

Non-Class Activities

When our youth group engages in non-class activities, everyone is expected to act as representatives not only of Sunset but also of Jesus Christ. As such, there are certain behaviors and actions that will not be tolerated. It has been the long-standing policy of the Sunset youth group that students presenting a serious disciplinary problem will be sent home from the activity at the expense of the parent(s). For such serious disciplinary problems, the following steps may be taken:

1. As soon as possible, you (or another emergency contact for your student) will be informed about the problem and what action needs to be taken next.
2. If the problem is deemed serious enough for the student to be sent home, you or another authorized caretaker of the student will need to come and pick the student up from the activity, including out-of-town trips.
3. If nobody is able to pick the student up, he/she may be escorted home by two adult sponsors at your expense.
4. The youth minister(s) will decide what further action to take after the immediate situation is rectified.

Determining the severity of the problem will be left to the discretion of the youth minister(s) or other responsible adult who is/are present with first-hand involvement in the situation. Examples of problems that could result in the student being sent home include any “small” problems that become overly excessive or repetitive, blatant and unrepentant disrespect for others, any illegal activity, or any other serious infraction of scripture or other youth rules established for a particular event.

Other General Guidelines

The youth minister(s) and other adult sponsors may choose to involve law enforcement officials in certain situations. Obviously, if any students are endangered or missing, law enforcement will be notified. Again, you or another authorized family representative will be contacted about the situation as soon as possible.

Deciding when and how to discipline a student is largely subjective, as each student and each situation is different. Please understand that the youth minister(s) and other adults may use any number of methods to discipline students as specific situations arise. These methods may include:

- simply informing you of the problem,
- not allowing the student to participate in the activity (sit on the sidelines),
- assigning an adult to “stick with” the student for some or all of the activity, or
- isolating the student from the rest of the group for some or all of the activity.

In any event, we want to do what best serves the physical and spiritual safety and well-being of our youth group and of each individual student. We want you and your student to be aware of these things so that together we may all enjoy praising God, learning from his Word, encouraging one another, and having fun. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Sunset youth minister at (806) 788-3291 or (806) 792-5191.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

PRINT STUDENT NAME: _____