

Double Springs Baptist Church

Youth Ministry Policies and Procedures – Parent Copy

Purpose and Objective

The youth program at DSBC seeks to reach our young people with the love of Jesus Christ and to help them grow in their knowledge of Christ. In addition, we want to nurture a desire in each youth to share that love with others through Bible study, mission activities, Christian based recreation and spiritual retreats.

Youth Participation

Young people in middle school and high school (grades 6-12) are encouraged and invited to participate in all activities and events. Seniors will age out at the beginning of the following church year (end of August).

Payment / Funding for Events

Each outing will vary on financial responsibility of the family. The family will be made aware of all fees associated with any trips. If at any time a family is unable to afford the fee, please see the Youth Ministry Leader or a member of the Youth Council to discuss possible scholarships to help cover the cost. In the event of cancellations due to various issues, i.e. lack of chaperones or number of participants for a given event, parents should be notified by the Youth Ministry Leader no later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled event. Refunds on money paid will depend on camp policies. No refunds will be given if a youth is sent home for behavior issues.

Dress Code

Each outing is a representation of our church. Youth and adults should wear appropriate clothing to ensure that we are representing our church in a positive manner within the community, at camps or other facilities and events the youth are attending. Clothing “as deemed inappropriate” by the youth ministry leader and /or chaperones are not permitted. This includes “short shorts”, spaghetti strap tops for girls, inappropriate messages or images on shirts, deep cut tank tops for males and females. Bathing suits for girls should be one piece or if a two piece is worn, the top and bottom must meet. Otherwise, a nonwhite t-shirt is to be worn over the bathing suit. If camps have specific dress codes, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to discuss this with their young person to ensure adherence of the policy.

Behavior

Any and all behavior during outings shall bring glory to God! Youth shall respect adults, chaperones and the other youth at all times. Inappropriate language and behavior will not be tolerated. Behaviors prohibited include, bullying of other youth, physical or verbal confrontations between youth and any suggestive or inappropriate physical contact between youth. The chaperones will use their discretion regarding behavior.

The chaperones will implement the following consequences as needed. First will be a verbal warning, second will be a phone call to the youth’s parent/responsible adult, and the third and final consequence will be the parent/responsible adult will be required to come and pick the youth up from the outing. Serious offenses and misbehavior will not be tolerated and may require immediate intervention. Continued behavioral issues may result in a youth not being allowed to participate in youth trips. The following are additional aspects regarding activities for youth when participating in any DSBC activity:

- Youth will refrain from any physical contact while participating in any DSBC activity including regular scheduled Wednesday and Sunday evening meetings. This includes public displays of affection.
- Respect other’s property. This includes all items that belong to others. Only use items if permission is given.
- Cell phones are a privilege. Cell phones are not to be out during Sunday or Wednesday youth meetings. No taking of photos involving other youth and posting on social media without the youth’s consent. Abuse of cell phone use will result in the phone being taken away and returned by chaperones when appropriate. See chaperones if there are questions.
- Youth should always travel in groups of 3 or more at all times for safety.

Overnight Events

Adults involved in DSBC youth activities must assume full burden for setting and maintaining clear and appropriate boundaries (physical and emotional) in all youth ministry relationships. There will be adequate supervision of youth at all times. It is recommended that 2 or more adults be present at any DSBC overnight activity and proportional supervision be adhered to. It is recommended that there be a minimum of 1 adult for every 7 students. In addition, if the group is mixed gender, there will be male and female chaperones at the same ratio. Care is to be taken to ensure that overnight events provide a safe environment. Adults must always respect the privacy of youth and each other. Likewise, youth must respect the privacy of adults and each other. When the youth group includes both males and females, and involves overnight accommodations, both male and female adults must be present. Youth may be in a room without a chaperone with written consent from a parent. No boys are to be in the girl's rooms and no girls in the boy's rooms at any time! No exceptions! Sleeping areas and access to bathroom facilities should be segregated between males and females. If separate bathroom facilities are not available, times for male and female and youth/adult use should be scheduled. No youth should be allowed to leave the premises without adult supervision. Curfews must be established and adhered to by all participants.

Transport

All youth must ride in vehicles approved by the Youth Ministry leader and/or the Youth Advisory Council. When using the church van or bus, the driver must meet the qualifications of the church bus policy and follow the guidelines listed including following the posted speed limits at all times. Additional aspects of the youth transportation policy include:

- When traveling by private vehicle, no adult of the opposite gender of a youth can be alone in the vehicle with only one youth.
- No fewer than three persons, one of them an adult should occupy a vehicle traveling to and from an activity. The exception is if the situation involves a child/parent relationship.
- When using the church van or bus, seatbelts will be used by all participants and the driver will ensure that the vehicle is not filled beyond capacity.
- No standing on the bus or van.
- Youth are to behave in an appropriate manner and not distract the driver. It is recommended that an additional adult be on the bus to assist the driver.
- The adult driving the van/bus must understand emergency contact procedures and maintain contact with the person in charge (i.e. cell phone) and have proper emergency contact documentation at all times.

Chaperones

All chaperones attending each outing will be approved by the Youth Advisory Council and actively involved with DSBC. Background checks may be required if deemed appropriate. All chaperones will be an active participant in each outing to ensure that the youth are properly supervised at all times. A chaperone should never be alone with a youth, regardless of the gender. The policies and procedures are for the protection and safety of the youth and the adults that are involved with youth activities. All adults are to be familiar with the policies and procedures prior to participating in any event.

**Extenuating and/or special circumstances can be brought to the Youth Ministry Leader and/or Youth Advisory Council for consideration. This policy will be adjusted as needed by action of the Church and recommendation from the Youth Advisory Council.*

_____ (Youth Ministry Leader)

I have read and understand the DSBC youth policy.

Parent /Guardian Date

Youth / Student Date