

# Cloverdale Church of Christ

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

### EXPECTATIONS & GUIDELINES

Expectations and guidelines can be quite ambiguous in many areas of life. Therefore, we believe that it is important to make it known to you as a teen and / or parent what you can expect from us and what we will expect from you. We will also provide guidelines that will be followed for all that we will do within the Cloverdale Youth & Family Ministry.

## EXPECTATIONS

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US (The Cloverdale YFM / FMT Team)

#### FRIENDS

We will provide a Christian peer group. We will make every effort to provide an environment where spiritual growth and fellowship can occur in the midst of Christian friendships.

#### LEADERS

We will strive to provide a team of responsible adult leaders who desire to serve others with hearts and hands and model a devoted and passionate relationship with Christ.

#### TRANSPORTATION

You can expect safe, efficient, and dependable transportation while traveling with the youth group. Drivers of all vehicles have passed the CDL test and / or current vehicle operator's regulations. Your safety is paramount to us!

#### RESPONSIBILITY

While on youth functions, we will take the responsibility of the teens in our care. We take that responsibility very serious while they are under our supervision. However, responsibility of teens during worship service, before and after classes, on the church parking lot, etc. lies in the hands of parents. When teen actions are brought to our attention during these times, we will direct those comments to you as parents.

## COMMUNICATION

We will make every effort to communicate to you as a family in every way. This will include communicating things that come to our attention about what is going on in your teen(s) life. It will also include communicating with you ways in which you can grow as a family. Communication will also be provided to you concerning what is going on in the Youth & Family Ministry (i.e., Calendars/Newsletters, and so forth).

## COOPERATION

We will involve you in any discipline situation that may arise involving your teen(s) (see "Discipline Policy & Procedures" sheet). We strongly believe that a cooperative approach to correction returns the God-given responsibility of discipline to you as parents.

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## WHAT WE EXPECT FROM PARENTS

### PRAYER

We covet your prayers as ministers and for this ministry. We will only move forward as God's people if we petition Him daily for strength, humility, growth, and the ability to look beyond ourselves. Pray for your teen(s), the youth group, the Family Ministry Team, and the Cloverdale Youth & Family Ministry staff.

### SUPPORT

We ask you to help and support us in this ministry. When decisions are made that the teens may not like, please help us by supporting us (*knowing that we are making these decisions to help the group as a whole*). If there is something that we do that you do not agree with, please come to us personally and share it with us so that we can grow and learn together. Please do not go to someone else and share it with them. ***You can be assured that we are supporting you and will also come to you with disagreements that may arise.*** We are making every effort with the teens to help them in the area of gossip and talking about others. We need your help in this as we model this principle to our teens. This is a Biblical principal that we must all work hard to follow (Matthew 5:22-24 & 18:15-17).

### RESPONSIBILITY

As we always say, parents are the number one influence in a teen's life. We ask that you remember that you bear the primary responsibility for spiritual growth in your teen(s). There is little we can do to replace the training and instruction of a Godly parent (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

## **INVOLVEMENT**

We NEED your help. Please make every effort to be involved in this ministry for your teen(s) and all the other families in this ministry. We are not perfect and we definitely do not have all the answers. If we work together as a team, we feel confident that God will use us all as instruments in helping our teens grow in the Lord. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO ATTEND YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY MEETINGS IN ORDER TO FIND WAYS TO GET INVOLVED.

## **FEEDBACK**

Please provide us with any feedback that could be beneficial to us and this ministry as a whole. Let us know of special needs and prayer requests for your teen(s) and your family.

## **RULES & DISCIPLINE**

Please make sure to read through the attached "Discipline Policy & Procedures" sheet. We expect your support and understanding in the enforcing of these guidelines and rules. Please remember that these are in place for reasons that benefit the group as a whole and not necessarily your individual teen(s). Please also support us in conveying to your teen(s) the importance and Biblical principle of respect to all the adult leaders that help out in this ministry. If we cannot receive your support in these areas, then we ask that your teen(s) not accompany us on any of our Youth & Family Ministry sponsored activities and events. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS!!!

## **PROBLEMS**

As unforeseen problems arise, please do not hesitate to contact the YFM staff and let us know. We are here for YOU. Communication is a key element to all aspects of life and ministry. We realize that there are things that cannot be helped and situations that must have special attention. Please let us know when those come up. WE UNDERSTAND!

## **PUNCTUALITY**

It is important when working with a group this size that we get going on time. We will always communicate a time of departure and arrival. This is to help both you as parents and us as ministers / leaders. If your teen(s) are late, they may find that we have already left. We do not wish to leave anyone behind, but we also have reasons for leaving at a designated time. We need your help in this. We also commit to you to be on time ourselves. We will be early to meet the teens and we will make every effort to arrive back at the designated time. If, for some unseen reason, we will not make it back at the designated time, we will communicate to you as soon as possible. While on trips, communication will be available by contacting / calling from the cellular phones of the YFM staff.

***ONE OTHER NOTE:*** After events we have adult leaders who are tired and ready to go home. Please make sure to be here promptly to pick up your teen to help us out with this.

## WHAT WE EXPECT FROM TEENS

### RESPONSIBILITY

We expect each teen to take responsibility for his / her actions.

### RESPECT

- We expect each teen to cooperate and respect all adults and adult leaders.
- We expect each teen to respect other teens by lifting each other up rather than tearing them down.
- We expect each teen to respect the property of others, the church building, and the areas and property we visit while away.

### PARTICIPATION

We expect each teen to participate in all activities with the entire group when deciding to be a part of a particular event, trip, or class. Exceptions for this are made in case of illness, injury, and other special circumstances.

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## RULES & GUIDELINES

### *Philippians 4:8*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

Rules and guidelines are not put into place just to hold people down and use authority over them, but to help maintain the group and shine as Christian examples out of love for God. The following are rules & guidelines that we will work from in everything we do in order minimize conflicts among the group and maximize spiritual growth. Most of these are common sense Christian guidelines.

- **All teens are expected to ride the church vehicles when space is available.** Those driving to the church will be able to leave their vehicles on the church property. Some exceptions *maybe* made, but only by the permission of a Youth & Family Ministry staff.
- **No drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, fireworks, weapons, pornographic material or anything of the sort will be allowed on ANY event.**
- **Prescription and non-prescription medicines** should be discussed between a parent and the appropriate adult leader attending the event. Instructions in writing are always preferred.

- **Jesus Christ is to be lifted up in all actions and attitudes of those participating in events and activities.** No disruptive behavior will be allowed. That includes, but is not limited to fighting, cussing, vandalism, pranks, disrespect of authority, etc. Speech that is inappropriate, crude, sexual in nature, insulting, downgrading, etc. will not be tolerated.
- Provisions are made to satisfy basic first aid needs.
- **“Permission / Medical Release”** forms must be on file for your teen in order to attend events and activities. **“Commitment to Christ”** forms will be made available for certain events and activities.
- **PDA is not acceptable at any time while on youth group events or activities.** Dating couples should remember to set a Christian example to everyone. Physical contact should be kept to a minimum. Holding hands is the limit of PDA that is allowed of all in the youth group.
- **To encourage the growth of relationships and interaction among those in the youth group while traveling, no audio players, video games, and/ or cellular phones will be allowed at any time.** Audio players and video games may be allowed on extended trips (i.e., anything over seven (7) hours). Absolutely nothing may be played or listened to that is questionable. (USE COMMON SENSE AND CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES!).
- **Clothing should be modest at all times.** That is, if you have doubts about what you are wearing or taking to wear, it is probably not acceptable. No bare anything that is normally covered by clothing will be acceptable at any time. If in doubt about appropriate clothing, please first check with your parents or if already in attendance at an event or activity, check with an adult chaperone. Issues regarding proper water park / swimming attire will be addressed as needed with that event and / or activity.
  - *We understand that each family determines what is modest for their teen(s). However, while on youth group events, there are guidelines that must be followed or the teen(s) will be asked to change clothes or leave.*

If in doubt on any of the above,

As always ...

**“Remember who you are and WHOSE you are!”**