Diocese of Joliet

Adult Chaperone Policy Form

Thank you for your willingness to further the message of Christ to youth through your participation as an Adult Chaperone. Youth Ministry cannot happen without adult involvement. Your presence, encouragement, and empowerment of youth are critical to the success of Youth Ministry at your parish in the diocese. The following Adult Chaperone Guidelines have been developed to help you in your role as Adult Chaperone:

General Chaperone Conduct

Adult chaperones should reflect mature and responsible behavior. As models of appropriate Christian behavior, Chaperones are asked to follow the Code of Behavior as well. In addition to leading youth by modeling a positive attitude and involvement, we ask that all adults refrain from consuming drugs and alcohol and from smoking. It is important for the youth to realize that the chaperones from their parish are there to walk the journey with them.

Supervision of Youth

All adult chaperones are responsible for the supervision of the youth participants from their parish. This extends to all youth at diocesan events when inappropriate behavior is observed. Please be familiar with the Code of Behavior. It is imperative that all adults are willing to confront behavior code violations. Serious behavior code violations are to be brought to the attention of the parish leader. If it is a diocesan sponsored event, parish leaders are expected to disclose inappropriate behaviors to the people in charge of the diocesan event.

Visibility Among the Youth

Please be intentionally visible and interactive with the youth participants from your parish. Your presence among the young people is very important. Please be consciously aware of the youth from your parish as well. Make frequent head counts, monitor time away from the group for bathroom breaks and other reasons, and communicate firm check-in times to youth participants. Being attentive to their needs can help you anticipate situations that might require your attention.

Responding to Accidents

If there is an emergency that requires immediate medical attention, contact emergency services immediately. In the US, dial 911.

Please inform your parish leader (and if at a diocesan event, the diocesan staff person responsible for the event) as soon as possible of any accident. If medical attention is required, but not an emergency basis, make the participant as comfortable as possible within the boundaries provided by the Youth Medical Form. Then, contact the participant's parents as soon as possible. (This is normally the responsibility of the parish leader or diocesan staff person in charge of the event.) Please be sure to stay in communication with the parish leader and/or the diocesan staff person in charge of the event. It is important to use the Accident/Incident Form for Youth Events to document what happened to cause the accident and the steps taken to provide attention or treatment following the accident. This should be turned in to the parish and diocesan leader.

Providing Guidance and Encouragement to Youth

There may be times when young people have difficulty focusing, following directions, or cooperating for many reasons. Speak to the person privately in a gentle and direct manner. You may have to remove the individual from the group setting (which is highly recommended) in order to have that conversation. See the guidelines below for Safety of Youth and Adult Participants. It is important that you not publicly humiliate another person. If needed, please do not hesitate to ask other adult chaperones or your parish leader for help, especially if the cause of these behaviors is beyond your ability to respond.

For the Safety of the Youth Participants & Adult Chaperones

No adult should be alone in an enclosed area with a youth participant. Conversations with youth should take place in a public location. If you are speaking to youth in a room, make sure the door to that room remains open. When responding to situations in opposite-sex housing, make sure another adult is present and announce your presence prior to entering the area. See "Protecting God's Children" below.

Requirements for the Protection of Young People

Adult chaperones are required to have a criminal background check performed and attend Protecting God's Children (VIRTUS) training prior to chaperoning an event with minors. Please see the parish leader for information on how to do this.

Responsibility to Report Adult chaperones have the responsibility to report the following information concerning youth:

Type of Information to Report	Timeframe to Report It	Who to Report it To
Serious behavior code violations (at the event)	As soon as possible	Parish leader & diocesan staff person in charge of event
Accident or injury (at the event)	▪ Immediately if emergency treatment is required ▪ As soon as possible if not an emergency situation	▪ Emergency services first, then parish leader, parents, and diocesan staff in charge of the event ▪ Parish leader, diocesan staff in charge of the event, and/or parents
Suicide thoughts or threat If a person is an immediate danger to themselves or others	Immediately	Parish leader, diocesan staff in charge of the event, and parents.
Disclosure of physical or sexual abuse	Immediately	Parish leader, diocesan staff in charge of the event, and/or parents. This also needs to be reported to the appropriate authorities (government agency).

Videotaping and Still Photographs; Videotaping and still photographs may occur during this event. These may be used for marketing future events of this nature. Registration for this event constitutes permission for possible participation in videotaping and/or still photographs

As an adult chaperone for a parish attending this event, I understand my responsibilities and agree to abide by these guidelines.

Signature:_____ Date: _____