

Appendix M-APC Youth Ministry Advisers Covenant

When volunteering with youth at APC, I accept this role as a privilege. This Covenant pertains only to all Youth Ministry sponsored or conducted events (events offered by other ministries within APC are governed by their respective covenants):

Church Procedures and Policies -

- Attend training and turn in volunteer forms. Adults must complete a background check.
- Familiarize yourself with and follow the APC Child and Youth Safety Policy and Youth Discipline Policy.
- Know where First Aid, Medical Care Stations, and Fire/Emergency plans are located and handled.
- Per the best practices expressed in the Child and Youth Safety Policy, there should be two approved volunteers present at all times.
- An adult should never be alone with children/youth.
- Report any unapproved or suspect adults on the church property.
- Wear your nametag when volunteering with youth.

Leadership, Safety, and Faith Development -

- Be on time and ready for responsibility and care of youth. Ideally arrive by 5:15pm on Sunday evenings.
- No use of cell phones during scheduled time with the students.
- Dress appropriately.
- Youth events often require physical exertion. Advisers are to actively involve themselves and engage the youth in all activities during youth events and not separate themselves from the group by not participating.
- Adults are required to provide seat belts for all occupants of vehicles during off-site events and are to ensure they are appropriately used while the vehicle is in motion.
- Teach and show respect to all youth and adults participating.
- Always speak with a calm voice in a positive manner and appropriate language with a clear message to all youth.
- Have patience and always consider the safety and emotional health of the youth.
- Encourage walking and not running inside the church building.
- When participating in youth events, spread out advisors and keep a close eye on youth in the building. This includes evening meals (please sit with the youth).
- Be aware of and engage youth who are detached, alone, or disengaged.
- Gently ask youth where they are going if they are leaving the area.
- Please be flexible and helpful.
- Provide a fun environment where there is interaction that allows development of friendships and creates a feeling of being welcomed.
- If teaching or leading, be prepared for the lesson, pray for guidance and trust your own gifts and leadership.
- Treat all youth equally without favoritism.
- Nurture without judgment the youth that may need extra attention and care due to behavioral struggles or medical needs.
- If you need assistance with a youth or a time away from duties, ALWAYS ask for help.
- Convey love and listen to the youth when they talk.
- Be servants of God, not ones that seek power over others.
- Have FUN and promote JOY in all God's people.
- Pray for the youth, church, community, and world.
- Know that ALL are needed and appreciated in the work of the church.

I have read and will follow the expectations and agreement.

Signed _____ Date: _____