

Youth Participation

- MH Youth is split into two groups; JHM 6-8th grade and HSM 9-12th grade. All policies and procedures apply equally to both groups.
- Youth who participate in Youth group activities must agree to adhere to the youth group policies and procedure and follow verbal directions given by staff and adult leaders at all times.

Transportation

- Transportation to and from Youth Group events shall be provided by parents/guardians. Parents/guardians are responsible for making sure youth arrive on time for events and are picked up promptly at the scheduled end time.
- Youth who provide their own transportation to and from Youth Group events must do so with parental permission unless otherwise stated. Youth the age of 16 or over may provide their own transportation but are not authorized to provide transportation for other members of the youth group under the age of 18 without written permission from that youth's parents/guardians.
- Carpooling from the church to off-site events shall be provided only by staff members, parents/guardians, or the church's adult youth volunteer team who have been approved to provide such transportation. Youth of 16 years of over may provide their own transportation but are not authorized to provide transportation for youth under the age of 18.
- No single youth and single adult (other than that youth's parent) of opposite sex are to be alone in a vehicle at any time during carpool to and from off-site Youth group events.
- There shall be no talking on the cell phone, reading, or texting while driving.
- Youth team will carry emergency contact information for youth in their care.
- The car must be in good working order with seatbelts for each person. The driver must have a valid driver's license and car insurance.

Adult Supervision

- At least two adults over the age of 18 will be always present during all youth group events, or other church activities involving minors.
- All adult volunteers and staff members who will be working with Youth must undergo screening and background checks including Live Scan fingerprinting.

- All volunteers and staff who will be working with Youth are required to read, agree to, sign, and follow the MHBC leadership agreement.

Monitoring of Youth Group Activities

- At least two adults over the age of 18 will be always present during all youth group events.
- At off-site events, staff members and adult leaders are responsible for monitoring the whereabouts and activities of all youth at the event.
- Youth are prohibited from leaving the group for any reason without receiving explicit permission to do so from staff members or adult leadership team.

Parents/Guardians Permission and Liability Wavers

- Participation in MH Youth events is open to all youth who are in Junior High (grades 6-8) and High School (grade 9-12), whose parents/guardians have filled our permission materials allowing for such participation. For legal purpose, anyone the age of 18 years or older but still a high school student living with parent/guardians, will be considered an adult however, parents/guardians must still sign any permission materials and follow the guidelines below
- Special permission slips may be required for some off-site Youth Group events in order to participate.
- Permission slips/liability waivers will be kept on file.
- Church staff and adult Youth Group leaders shall respect potentially sensitive nature of personal information provided on the forms.

Conduct and Expectations

MH Youth strives to create a safe place for all students. (all genders, all races, all backgrounds Etc...)
With this in mind, we accept and welcome all students willing to abide by our rules and leaders.

MH Youth understands God has standards for those who follow Christ. We as a Youth ministry desire for all of those who follow Christ to live out those standards, but we are fully aware that is impossible to do without Christ help. We are desperate and need God's grace continually. Our job as Youth ministry team, is to direct students towards relationship with Christ. This is not a one size fits all policy. We need to be prayerful, compassionate, grace-filled and relational in addressing these topics. Here are the expectations for students and leaders.

- Public displays of affection (PDA)
 - MH Youth understands Students will have relationships and we are accepting of that. MH Youth wants to make sure that during Youth services and events those relationships are being conducted in a God honoring way. Youth group is a place for people to come together to focus on the worship of God, we ask that those relationships don't become a distraction to themselves or others by keeping their PDA to holding hands.

- Dress Code:
 - Any clothing/accessories with foul language, sexual innuendos, sexual conduct, racial or ethnic slurs, and religious hate words or graphics will be restricted.
 - Clothing must adequately cover intimate areas. Our hope is that the students will be dressing modestly and not bringing undue/unwanted attention to themselves.
 - We do not condone political clothing/accessories.
 - Swim Wear: We encourage our students to be comfortable. With that we still have expectations
 1. Boy may wear board short. No Speedo or Jammers
 2. Girls may wear one or two piece swim wear; no excessive exposure including low cut tops or thong bottoms.
 - Shorts: Do not wear revealing shorts that bring excessive attention to intimate areas.
 - At any overnight events we will follow the dress code policy's that have been created by the leadership of that organization.

- MH Youth is committed to creating and maintaining a drug and alcohol-free environment during Youth services and events.
- No firearms
- No wrestling, horseplay, or fighting.
- No weapons or needles.
- Due to Morgan Hill's community past we want to honor the fact that no flags will be brought on campus, unless specifically specified by the student ministry team.

Overnight Events

- MH Youth attends overnight camps at Hume Lake Christian Camp. When we are there, we abide by their rules, regulations, and restrictions.

Use of Media for Youth Group Services, Events, and Communication

- If movies or Clips are used, they will be PG-13 or lower. If it is R rated, we will inform parents beforehand.
- Leaders and students may choose to communicate online or by text/phone. Leaders understand that all communication should remain appropriate. If a conversation ever becomes inappropriate the leader will stop communication immediately and bring it to the attention of their Pastor/Director. *Refer to Leader agreement for conduct and expectations
- We encourage parents to monitor all student communication. Therefore, we will always act under the assumption that all communication between students and leaders is being monitored by parents and guardians. If a parent or student ever comes across what they believe to be inappropriate communication, please bring it to our attention and we will investigate the situation further.

Youth Medication Management

Due to our drug and alcohol-free environment policy, we ask that any medicine or medication brought by students to a Youth service or event, be brought to the attention of the Pastor/director and their small group leader. Medicine or medication is not to be passed out by any students, nor without parents' consent, and will only be given by the Pastor/director or leader.

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment

- Sexual Harassment is verbally expressing unwelcomed or inappropriate sexual advances or obscene remarks. We at MH Youth do not condone any Sexual Harassment.
- Sexual Abuse is physically expressing, unwelcomed or inappropriate sexual advances or obscene behavior. We at MH Youth do not condone any Sexual Abuse.

Mandatory Reporting

- All staff members and adults working with the Youth Group are subject to the California statutes concerning mandated reporting, and reports will be made as necessary and as prescribed by the law
- Any person who knows or has reason to believe a child is being neglected, physically or sexually abused, or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding

three years, shall immediately report that information to church staff or the local welfare agency, police department, or the country sheriff

- Reports concerning the possibility of abuse or neglect must be made as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours after obtaining knowledge or having suspicions.

Discipline

Jesus always corrected with love through his relationships with individuals, our desire is to do the same. Discipline is not a one size fits all policy; each misconduct will be addressed in a case by case basis.

- Minor offense (Example could be, a student comes dressed inappropriately and you have a relationship with them, take them aside and let them know what they are wearing is inappropriate for MH Youth and ask them to wear something different next week.)
 - First addressed with warning. If behavior persists, then student will be escorted away from the group for a talk. If behavior still persists, then that student will be escorted to their parent or guardian.
- Major offense (fighting, weapon, drugs Etc...)
 - Immediate escorting of the student to their parent or Guardian. If behavior persists, or the offense warrants, the student might be asked to take time away from MH Youth. If that is the case, the Pastor/director or the students small group leader will remain in contact with said student.
- If the student returns and the behavior persists, the student will be addressed again, if they do not want to comply, they will be asked to leave permanently.