

Beulah Baptist Church

Code of Conduct

For

Youth and Youth Leaders

It is the Mission of Beulah Baptist Church, to create a fun, safe environment where those who don't know Jesus can be introduced to Him, and where those who already have a relationship with Him can develop it further.

This Code of Conduct has been established as a basis for accountability for all participating youth and adults so everyone will act in a Christian manner during all activities.

- 1) Displays of Affection:** All participants should reflect a Christian attitude in personal relationships during all church activities. All participants shall refrain from inappropriate displays of affection such as kissing, prolonged embracing, or other body contact inappropriate to a church environment.
- 2) Respect:** Students who choose to participate in Beulah Baptist Church youth activities agree to follow the instructions of the leaders. Loud, disruptive, or defiant behavior will not be tolerated.
 - a. If loud, disruptive, or defiant behavior continues after warning the individual(s), said individual(s) will be removed from the meeting and parents will be called to pick up the youth. If the youth drives, parents will be contacted before sending the youth home. Youth group has a specific program which volunteers have spent many hours preparing. It is not the desire of the adult leadership to provide a youth-care hangout, but a quality youth program designed to further a youth's faith growth opportunities where students are encouraged to be friends and have fun in a Godly manner.
- 3) Meetings:** Students are expected to participate willingly in the planned activities (i.e. Worship Service, class-time, etc.). Students are here to develop and explore a growing relationship with Christ, and should not disrupt the worship and learning of others.
 - a. Cell phone use by youth is not permitted. Phones will be taken up by youth leaders if present, and will be returned at the end of the meeting.
 - b. Students will not leave the supervisory presence of the youth ministry staff without permission – i.e. leaving the youth meeting, leaving the church, leaving the group during trips, etc. Failure to comply can jeopardize the safety of yourself, others, leaders, or the group.
 - c. It is understood that any rule or guideline that is not mentioned in our guidelines but is required by a camp or retreat where our youth are present will also apply to our students.
 - d. We require the buddy system on all trips. Students should not be anywhere by themselves for safety reasons.
- 4) Smoking/Drinking/Illegal Drugs:** Adults and Youth will not use tobacco products at any event, regardless of age. Parents and local authorities will be notified immediately if a youth is found to be in possession of alcohol or an illegal substance, and the youth will need to be picked up by a parent. Any adult who uses or displays alcohol during any youth event or illegal drugs at any time will be dismissed from youth group leadership or functions.

- 5) **Violent Behavior:** Violent behavior and/or possession of any type of weapon will not be tolerated. Any act of striking, hitting, kicking, or attacking another individual will be cause for removal from the group and having a parent/guardian pick up the offending youth. Repeated offenses will result in the youth not being permitted to participate in youth activities until the parents and youth meet with the Pastor and a youth leader who will determine reinstatement. Any adult who displays any act of violent behavior will not be permitted to participate in youth activities.
- 6) **Inappropriate Language:** No participant should use inappropriate language at any church event. This not only includes what is commonly accepted as vulgar language, but also abusive language directed at another individual such as name-calling or other put downs. The first two offenses will result in warnings from the leader(s) in charge of the event. The third offense will result in removal from the group and the parent/guardian being called to pick up the youth. Any subsequent offense will result in the parents/guardians of the youth meeting with the Pastor plus a youth leader to address the problem.
- 7) **Emergency Medical Release Forms/Permission Slips:** Emergency release forms are to be supplied to the youth and will serve for all events. Parents should update emergency contact information when needed. Medical information should be supplied as completely appropriate information. Separate permission slips are to be completed for each activity. Emergency information will be kept for adult chaperones as well.
- 8) **Van Ministry:** The Beulah Baptist Church vans are an integral part to the churches' mission, and therefore should be respected as all other church property.

Joining the route: Prior to your child being included in the van ministry pickups/dropoffs, the following must take place:

- a. Before we pick up your child to attend our church for the first time, we require a brief visit with at least one parent/guardian. We will use your contact information to call and schedule a visit as quickly as possible.
- b. We will send text reminders for van pickups approximately 2-3 hours in advance.
- c. We must receive a phone call response from a parent/guardian regarding pickups. The response must include the names of children attending so we can accurately know the number of van riders.
- d. If we do not receive your response by the specified time in the text reminder, we cannot guarantee pickup of your child.
- e. Van routes will be determined on a "first call – first serve" basis. Once the routes are full, we may not be able to pick up your child at which point you will be notified via text.
- f. If more riders show up for pickup than those included in parent/guardian response, we cannot guarantee their ability to ride.

General Guidelines:

- a. The number of youth, leaders, and chaperones per vehicle will NOT exceed the number of safety belts available.
- b. All persons driving or being driven to/from a Beulah Baptist Church sponsored youth event MUST use seat belts at all times. Failure to comply will cause the driver to delay movement of the vehicle.
- c. Boys and Girls should sit separately.

- d. No food or drinks should be allowed on the van. However, if a child takes food or drink home from Church activities, they should be stored at the front of the van until the child is dropped off.
- e. All riders should remain seated while the vehicle is in motion.
- f. The minimum age for van riders is 5 years old.
- g. Booster seats should be used when necessary to comply with Tennessee Child Restraint Laws.
- h. Drivers should ensure vans are clean from trash and debris.

9) Dress Code: Our dress code is with Christian modesty in mind. Parents are to make sure that their child is dressed appropriately and brings appropriate clothing on trips.

- a. Clothing should not portray anything commonly accepted as vulgar or offensive or promote alcohol, smoking, or illegal drug use.
- b. Chaperones have permission to suggest a change of dress at any time they feel the need to do so.

10) Miscellaneous Information:

- a. Failure to comply with any of the rules set forth in this document, will result in the youth no longer being allowed to participate in the van ministry. If youth continue to attend church separately, they will have to be accompanied by a parent/guardian throughout the duration of their stay.
- b. Parents are to be kept informed of youth activities, agenda for meetings, special activities, and projects.
- c. Information provided should be as specific as possible regarding time of departure and arrival, routes, method of travel, phone numbers, and number of drivers.
- d. ANY prescription medication that is required to be taken by a youth participant during a chaperoned event shall be provided to an adult leader/chaperone in the original labeled bottle, accompanied by written instructions as to dosage administration and timing. Parents agree to carefully review this information with their child in advance so as to ensure the youth understands. Youth leaders/chaperones are to use their best efforts to make medication in their possession available to the designated youth at the appropriate time. If the youth refuses to take the medication as directed, the parent/guardian will be notified to provide immediate transportation home for the youth. If students take medication during the school week only, please consider having the youth take that medication during youth events as well to assist leaders/chaperones with youth behavior and attentiveness.

Because we take Youth Ministry seriously at Beulah Baptist Church, and strive to provide the optimal environment and opportunity for you to grow in your spiritual life, we ask that you read these guidelines and understand their content. We ask also that your parents read them and enter into discussion with you as to the nature and reason for guidelines being set forth. After this time with your parents, please sign the lines below in the appropriate places, and return to the Youth Leader or the Pastor at the next youth group meeting. A copy of the signed guidelines will be provided.

We show our love and caring by insisting on a quality ministry where your safety and total well-being is consistently at the forefront of our minds and heart! If you have any questions, please contact the Pastor for clarification.

Parent / Guardian Information

Parent Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Conduct Acceptance

I, (full youth name) _____ as a participant in the youth ministry program of Beulah Baptist Church, agree to abide by the instruction of all youth leaders, teachers, and van drivers.

Signature of youth participant Date

I/We, (full parent name(s)) _____ as parent(s)/guardian(s) of above named minor participant support the instruction of all youth leaders, teachers, and van drivers. I/We also give permission for Beulah Baptist Church and volunteers to seek medical attention on my child's behalf in case of injury. I further agree to disclose any special needs or food allergies my child may have below:

Special Needs/Food Allergies: _____

Signature of parent/guardian Date

Signature of parent/guardian Date