



Behavior Expectations

Our Mission: Our desire is to help students worship, grow and serve Jesus Christ with their entire lives. Our mission is to intentionally lead students to see God as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures: the only true God, infinitely glorious and worthy of our worship; to equip our students through the Scriptures to become like Christ; to reach out to unsaved students with the Gospel, and to support parents to be the primary disciple-makers of students in their home.

Our Goals: We do this by studying the Bible with students, forming Christ-like relationships, empowering students for spiritual growth and student leadership, as well as mobilizing them to Spirit-led Christian service in the church and community. We also have a lot of fun along the way too! We want to create an environment where students can worship, grow, and serve Jesus with the least number of distractions possible. We want to do everything we can to set students up for success and teach them how to pursue God-honoring relationships!

To accomplish our mission and goals, we have several behavior expectations:

Partnering With Parents: Here at Fellowship Church, our desire is to do everything we can to the best of our ability to help students worship, grow, and serve Jesus Christ with their entire lives. In doing so, we want to partner with parents as they fulfill their God-given role of being the primary discipler of their student. Our hope is to stay connected and partner with parents to help their student be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. If there is something going on in your student's life that might help us minister to them more effectively, please let us know! The primary ways we will connect with parents are through our weekly parent resource email, handouts, text alerts, our Instagram page, and our website.

TNT Student Registration Forms: All students must provide registration information annually. This information enables us to place your student in an appropriate small group, as well as respond appropriately in the case of an emergency. This information is kept private & confidential. If any of your information changes within the school year, please send us a note with your new contact information so that we may update our records.

TNT Check-in/ Check-out: All students must check in upon arrival, and check out before leaving on Thursday nights at TNT. In order to keep students safe, we want to know what students are on the premises at all times. We ask that students check in and out at door A unless otherwise stated. Parents who must pick up their students before 8:30 must come into the lobby and notify the Check-in attendant there. Parents should alert us when someone other than a parent is picking up their student. Students may not leave early without parents permission. If however a student chooses to disobey and leaves the premises without parental or staff permission, our staff will try to notify the parent/guardian immediately via the contact numbers provided on the TNT Registration form. This student will then be required to meet with the Pastor to obtain permission to attend youth ministry events in the future.

Guests: Students are encouraged to invite their friends to TNT and other student ministry activities. We are not an exclusive club - we are a ministry devoted to sharing the Gospel to all students who want to hear! However, not all youth ministry activities are designed for guests, so check with the ministry leader to learn which events are open to visitors and which are not. Event information can be found on our Instagram page, our weekly parent resource email, handouts given at check-out periodically, and on our church website. At TNT, please have your guest fill out a registration form. Guests may attend small group with their host for their first evening. However, if there is more than a one-year age difference it is possible your guest will be placed in a more age-appropriate small group for future visits.

Equipment: Equipment should only be used in the specific way that each item was designed for. Proper respect for all church equipment, furniture, appliances, property, etc. is expected. Failure to respect equipment may result in further follow-up with parents and affect involvement in future youth ministry events.

Conduct & Language: It is our desire to teach and model to our students how to live like Christ and behave with love, peace, and respect for others.

- No insubordinate or disrespectful behavior towards another student, youth ministry staff, or visitors.
- No public displays of affection (ex: handholding, front hugging, inappropriate touch, kissing, etc.). Again, it is our goal to teach and model God-honoring relationships to our students.
- All electronic devices are to be silenced and kept away during youth ministry programs and events (unless otherwise stated) so that students' fullest attention can be devoted to the ministry activities.
- At no time may a student leave a ministry event/program early without parental permission expressed to the appropriate youth ministry leader.

Yet there are certain behaviors that will not be tolerated and require further action. In each of the situations below, the protocol action will be: 1) notify the parents and proper authorities, 2) remove the student(s) from Youth Ministry activities for an indefinite period to be determined by church leadership and 3) help parents/caregiver find appropriate help/counseling/assistance as needed.

- We have a zero-tolerance policy for: cigarettes/e-cigarettes/alcohol/illicit drugs and/or drugs delivered by, sold by, or found on any student in attendance at any church sanctioned Youth Ministry event, the action steps above will be implemented.
- Absolutely no sexual misconduct, innuendos, or inappropriate touching of any kind.
- Bullying, fighting, profanity, or violence of any kind, will also NOT be tolerated at any Fellowship youth event. We will also not tolerate harassment be it physical, emotional, verbal, sexual or visual regardless of if it happens in person, on social media/technology, or in any other form.
- **Fellowship Youth Ministry activities are a privilege, not a right.**

Attire: Our desire is to help students honor Jesus in everything they do, including what they wear. Although clothing is a personal expression, the freedom of these expressions MAY NOT impede our efforts to teach Biblical purity & morals. In order to practice and model purity, clothing should not be too revealing, too tight, or display vulgar words/pictures. No cleavage, midriffs, or undergarments are visible. For our young ladies, one-piece bathing suits are required for any water-type events, or dark cover-ups, and for our young men, no speedos. Sneakers are suggested for gym & yard activities.

Facilities: While the church buildings, in general, will be open for Youth Ministry programs, not all areas are open to the students. Students are expected to remain in designated areas at each scheduled time, and nowhere else unless escorted by a staff member (except for restrooms). Students are not to be in areas where there is no adult supervision. When attending an outdoor event at Fellowship, please be considerate of our neighbors' property and privacy. Finally, all youth ministry activities at Fellowship are required to have at least one of their adult leaders in attendance to use any church facility.

Food & Drinks: At TNT, food and drinks will only be allowed in the designated dining areas, which include the gym and activity room. When food/drinks are provided at any ministry event, students are expected to clean up after themselves and leave their environment as clean as they found it.

Permission Slips: Each youth ministry event will determine the need for such information. Generally, for off-site trips and events that require parental permission, a form will be sent home with each student for a parent/guardian to fill out, sign, and return accordingly. Students will only be allowed to participate in such events with signed and completed permission slips handed in on time with any fees paid in advance.

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” – 1 Corinthians 10:31

As a ministry of Fellowship Church, the Fellowship Youth Ministry functions in full agreement and accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws, Statement of Faith, and policies of Fellowship Church. All that takes place within Fellowship Youth Ministries (FYM) is considered a part of Fellowship Church as a whole. Those who serve and participate in FYM are a part of Fellowship Church's overall mission, accountable to the authority of the leadership of the church. Therefore, the Youth Ministries of Fellowship Church and all of its guidelines are under that authority and in full agreement to the statement of faith, constitution and bylaws of Fellowship Church. The specific youth policies and guidelines below have been established with Christ-like character in mind for all Fellowship Youth Ministry programs (TNT, TLC, Quiz Team, youth Band, etc.). It is our intention to create an atmosphere that Jesus Christ himself would model and expect from His disciples. Is it Holy?