

# Landmark Student Ministry Staff Code of Conduct

As Staff members of the Landmark Church Youth program, we represent to those around us our church, our youth group, and, most importantly, our Lord Jesus Christ. We recognize that we should behave in a manner consistent with the instruction presented in God's Word.

These guidelines are presented so that each staff member fully understands the expectations of their positions. Appropriate behavior and attitudes are the foundation for the spiritual teaching and leadership that are exercised by the staff. **If it is not being lived, the message will not be heard.** We ask that each Youth Staff wholeheartedly follow the guidelines presented below or the spirit of these "rules." Your life & lifestyle are critical to God working through you to touch the lives of our Students.

## Some general principles:

1. Have respect for authority figures, whether that is the Youth Pastor, leader appointed by him/her, person in charge at an event, camp staff, etc. (1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1)
2. Have an attitude of compassion for the differences, needs or disabilities of others. The world can be a very "mean" place to youth. Church should be a **safe place** where their defenses can be lowered. At youth group, students should be allowed to be themselves and be totally accepted. (Model **not being cruel** to people who are different from yourself). (Matthew 7:12; James 2:1- 9; Galatians 5:22-23)
3. Act and speak in a manner worthy of the God who calls you - unkind remarks, profanity, coarse jokes, conversation involving inappropriate content or sexual situations should be completely avoided. **Any language or conversation unbecoming of the Bible's instruction is unacceptable at all times and especially at youth functions.** (1 Thessalonians 2:12; Ephesians 4:1; 5:4)
4. Even though you may not have a problem with certain behavior or actions, **if you know something may be offensive to someone else, don't do it!** Respect the property and possessions of others (1 Corinthians 8:7-13; Philippians 2:3-4; Romans 12:17b)
5. In teaching situations, come prepared to listen attentively with an attitude of learning. Headphones, earphones, ipods, books, cellphones, or other distracting articles or behavior should be avoided. (James 3:13)

## Specific guidelines: Guy/Girl Relationships

- All staff members are to be involved with counseling and discipling only students of their **same gender only**. Yes, this means that male staff do not counsel girls, and female staff do not counsel boys. This avoids the problems that can come from attachments, crushes, etc. when too much attention is given.
- **At no time should a staff member be alone with anyone of the opposite gender.** Staff members are not to give rides to or from youth activities to members of the opposite gender. **(There are no exceptions to this rule)**
- At no time should a staff member be involved in a dating relationship with a member of the youth group.
- Staff members should not engage in physical contact with any student of the opposite gender, unless it is in the course of a game or activity. Specifically contact such as hugging, holding hands, placing arms around, back rubs, etc. is unacceptable (SIDE HUGS ONLY PLEASE!).

## Specific guidelines: Treatment of students

- NO STUDENT IS TO EVER BE LEFT SITTING OR STANDING ALONE!
- Staff members should not engage in "messing around" with any of the youth group members. This would include pushing, punching, teasing, etc.
- Every person involved with the youth program should be treated with respect. At no time should a staff member be involved in putting down, bagging on, (etc.) anyone in the group, whether they are student or a staff. **If this behavior comes to your attention in the group, put a stop to it.**

