

Diocese of Davenport Youth Code of Conduct

Youth participants will:

1. Project an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity, and respect to everyone and to the property around them through language, dress, and behavior.
2. Engage and participate in the activities of the event.
3. Refrain from inappropriate touching and verbal harassment.
4. Respect other persons and/or property.
5. Refrain from actions that could result in injury and/or damage to property.
6. Wear appropriate credentials in order to gain and maintain access to events and activities.
7. Keep their personal belongings with them at all times.
8. Attend all scheduled activities, arriving promptly, and stay for the entire event.
9. Maintain the spirit of the event.
10. Report problems of any kind to a trusted adult.

Youth participants will not:

1. Possess weapons of any kind.
2. Purchase, possess, consume, or distribute alcohol.
3. Purchase, possess, consume, or distribute illegal drugs.
4. Engage in any form of bullying, sexual activity or peer sexual harassment.
5. Purchase, download, possess, or distribute pornography .

The information that follows is intended to clarify for youth participants and their adult leaders/chaperones what are and *are not* appropriate behaviors in terms of relationships between adults and youth, and with their peers. It is the responsibility of all participants in a Diocese of Davenport event to be aware of these behaviors.

The following behaviors are generally considered *appropriate* at a Diocese of Davenport event:

- Side hugs
- Shoulder to shoulder or “temple” hugs
- Handshakes
- Verbal praise for a job well-done (not regarding physical attributes)
- Touching hands, faces (usually in context of a blessing), shoulders, and arms of minors
- “High-fives” and hand slapping
- Arms around shoulders
- Holding hands while walking with younger minors (children)
- Sitting beside younger minors
- Kneeling or bending down for hugs with younger minors
- Holding hands during prayer
- Pats on the head when culturally appropriate

The following behaviors are generally considered *inappropriate* at a Diocese of Davenport event:

- Inappropriate or lengthy embraces
- Kisses on the mouth
- Promoting with signs/announcing and giving “free hugs”
- Holding children on the lap who are capable of sitting on their own
- Touching bottoms, chests, or genital areas
- Showing affection in isolated areas of a facility such as bedrooms, restrooms, bathrooms, closets, staff-only areas, or other private rooms
- Touching knees or legs of minors
- Wrestling with or tickling minors
- Piggyback rides
- Any type of massage given by minor to adult or another minor, or given by adult to minor
- Any form of unwanted affection or peer sexual harassment
- Compliments or put downs that relate to physique or body development
- Going to an isolated area away from the group, or being taken to an isolated area by an adult or peer

If a problem of any kind occurs during a Diocese of Davenport sponsored youth event, young people will immediately go to a trusted adult to discuss the matter.

Youth and parents understand that failure to agree to and/or abide by the *Youth Code of Conduct* may result in any or all of the following sanctions:

- Reporting of misconduct to local authorities, if the violation in any way violates local ordinances or laws.
- Dismissal of the youth from the event or program by requesting that the group leader remove the youth (whereby it would become the responsibility of the group leader/chaperone/parent to ensure timely, accompanied, and safe transportation home).
- A ban placed on the young person from participating in any future Diocese of Davenport event or program.