

## Code of Conduct and Commitment Statement for Volunteers

### *My Commitment to Volunteer Ministry*

I will,

- Never leave a child or group of children for whom I am responsible unattended. I will provide appropriate supervision at all times.
- Always have at least one other adult, eighteen (18) years of age or older, to help with the supervision of children. If I find myself in a situation where I am the only adult present, **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will I allow myself to be alone with one child.
- Always ask a child's permission before physically touching him/her anywhere, even when responding to an injury or problem. This is especially true for any areas that would normally be covered by a T-shirt and/or shorts. (If an injury is within this area, I will make sure another adult works with me as care is provided.)
- Refrain from physical and verbal attacks and corporal punishment which are inappropriate and should never be used as discipline. ("Time outs" or "sit-in-that-chair" may be helpful discipline methods to use with children.)
- Affirm children with appropriate touching by keeping hugs brief and "shoulder-to-shoulder" or "side-to-side." For small children who like to sit on laps, I will encourage them to sit next to me. (Always keep hands at (not below) the shoulder level. A caregiver's kiss should be to the forehead or cheek only – not elsewhere.)
- Provide extra care when taking small children to the restroom. I will take another adult along or leave the door open.
- Avoid conducting activities in rooms that do not have any way for people to see what is going on in that room or I will leave the door open during the activity to allow easy observation by others.
- Cooperate with the volunteer screening process and complete the Verified Volunteer training and background check as required by the church.
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and aware of the legal requirements for reporting suspected cases of abuse.
- Cooperate with church leadership in conducting children and youth ministries. I will be loving, kind, firm, and always a thoroughly professional person.
- Participate in orientation and training programs conducted by the church
- I recognize that working with children and youth is not only a privilege; it is also a serious responsibility that must be approached with utmost care.

I, the undersigned, have read this document and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and Volunteer Guidelines outlined above. I will retain a copy of this document and keep it for reference.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*