



Forms, Forms, Forms

Youth Covenant and Medical Release Forms

While forms aren't always the most enjoyable to complete, they can be valuable tools to quickly and easily organize and provide information. Here are some tips for implementing forms for various areas in Youth Ministry.

What is a Covenant?

A covenant is a special promise between one person and God or between two people.

As children of God, we are ALL connected to one another. We seek to be inclusive and respectful of others. As a community we promote and support all persons in their healthy development (physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually) to lead to the fullest sense of identity, belonging, and wholeness. While taking on healthy risks and challenges individually and as a group, we rejoice in our successes. We also seek to support and challenge one another in our times of shortcomings and weakness. From early on, God made covenants and continues to do so with each person through Jesus Christ. We remember that God has promised through Jesus Christ to forgive our sins and to love us no matter what. We are called to do the same and it is important for youth and adults to make promises through a covenant for all youth ministry programs.

Examples of Covenants for Youth Ministry Programs

Student and Leader Accountability

Considering the Covenant and in the spirit of partnership and inclusion, we understand that the whole group may need to discuss any behavioral issues (except as limited by confidentiality). Discussions may be needed to explain circumstances, share feelings, develop solutions, seek reconciliation, and increase personal investment and accountability in the group. For any problem, we understand that incidents will be reported to the Church Staff Member, and that every effort will be made in the spirit of grace to respond to each person as a child of God, include all points of view, build mutually trusting relationships, and meet the needs and interest of all individuals involved.

Behavioral Concerns

Any student or leader behavior that threatens the values, spirit, or peace of his/herself, others or the group as a whole will be responded to directly through a meeting between the person(s) involved and the group leaders to discuss the issues and establish solutions. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, physical violence, damage to property, expletive language, put-downs, breaking ground rules or curfew established at activities, or any other hindrance to group commitment to the Covenant. In remembering who we are and our community, we ask that we modify our behavior to include appropriate cell phone use.

Dangerous Behavior

Any student or leader behavior that seriously threatens or shows disregard for the health and life of his/herself, others, or the group as a whole (as described, but not limited to, the items below) will be responded to by the group leader(s) as follows:

- Use or possession of tobacco products, vaping/juuling, alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs not prescribed to the individual, misuse of over the counter drugs, theft (shoplifting or stealing), weapons, fire-producing items, or inappropriate sexual behavior are not allowed in the context of any youth ministry event because they are deemed beyond the scope of youth ministry events, beyond the leadership capability, or they significantly threaten the individual, group unity, or other individuals.
 - Any Offense: Parent/Guardian is contacted and participant removed from group and sent home at their own expense.
- Evidence of probable cause concerning any participants' violation of these guidelines may result in his or her belongings being searched by a leader to ensure group and individual safety.

Basketball/Church Team Covenant

We also seek to support and challenge one another - and those that we meet on the court – in our times of weakness and shortcomings. In remembering who we are and the community we represent, we commit to reflect behavior befitting this community and the love that Christ has for all of us. This includes restraint from using coarse language, appropriate cell phone use, and appropriate attire during practices and games. It also includes a commitment to practice the tenets of good sportsmanship (e.g., congratulating others on good effort, picking up teammates and others off the court and respectful behavior towards referees).

Repeated Poor Judgment

We understand that repeated poor behavior of any kind will have more serious consequences, such as parent/guardian conferences, restrictions on participation, or legal action.

Helpful Tips

- Request that the Covenant is read discussed together as a family.
- Request that both parents/guardian and youth sign the Covenant.
- Share any general youth ministry Covenant with youth and families at the start of the school year.
- Request youth and families to read and sign the general Covenant every year.
- In conjunction with the designated Church committee, discuss and review the Covenant for any additional changes or edits.
- Create event/experience specific Covenants as needed.
- Create the Covenant document so that it can be shared electronically.

What is a Medical Release and Consent Form?

As youth leaders and church staff members, we try to keep all our youth as healthy and safe as possible. However, we also are aware that accidents could happen and the risk of a youth getting sick or hurt and needing medical attention is always a possibility. Therefore, it's helpful to be as prepared as possible in case a youth does need medical attention. Knowing as much in advance, providing all the necessary information to the health professionals, and receiving consent from youth parents/guardians helps keep youth leaders and church staff members calm and prepared. Having a Youth Medical Release and Parent/Guardian Consent Form ensures that proper medical treatment is provided in the event of an emergency.

Example: Youth Medical Release & Parental/Guardian Consent Form

This form is necessary to ensure that your child receives proper medical treatment in the event of an emergency. [Note: For all participants in programs under the age of 18 years.]

Child/Youth's Name _____ Birth Date _____
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Names _____
Home Phone# _____ Work Phone # _____
Cell Phone # _____

Any other information that may help us in get in touch with you:

Emergency Contact if a Parent/Guardian cannot be reached:

Name _____ Phone # _____ Relationship _____

Medical Information

Family Doctor/Practice _____ Phone# _____

Allergies _____

Food Restrictions _____

Chronic or existing diseases or medical problems (diabetes, epilepsy, etc.) _____

List medications that are currently being taken. Include prescription and non-prescription, as well as dosage amounts _____

Are all immunizations, including tetanus, current? _____

Have you received both COVID-19 vaccinations? _____

Are contact lenses worn? _____

Additional comments or information you think we should know: _____

Insurance Information

Carrier/Provider _____ Phone _____

Member's Name _____ Member's ID# _____

Group Policy Number _____

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF BOTH SIDES OF YOUR INSURANCE CARD.

Parent/Guardian Consent for Emergency Medical Treatment

I/we _____ (name) _____ (name) state that I(we) am(are) the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of _____ (child)(youth). If the above child/youth is injured or becomes ill while he/she is participating in an activity sponsored by Church (*the "Church"*), I/we understand that every effort will be made to contact us. However, I/we hereby grant(s) permission to any Church staff member, or any adult team leader approved by Session, to authorize whatever medical care is necessary in the judgment of a licensed physician. The undersigned agrees to inform the Church if there are any changes to the child/youth's medical condition or prescriptions prior to departure.

I (we) acknowledge that activities sponsored by the Church may involve some degree of inherent or unavoidable risk and that the Church does not, and cannot, guarantee the safety of participants in such activities. I (we) assume the risk of such activities, and the undersigned Parent or Guardian, and youth (if of legal age) hereby release the Church from, and agree to indemnify and hold it harmless against, all claims of any nature arising from the participation of, the child/youth all in such activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature(s) _____ **Date** _____

Helpful Tips

- Allow easy access to the medical release form for families to complete.
- Create the document so that it is a “fill-in” form or able to complete electronically.
- Require submission at the start of the school year while families are already completing forms and similar information for schools.
- Require a Medical Release and Consent Form for all overnight trips.
- Save and store completed forms in an easy to access but secure online location so that staff members and at least 1 volunteer attending the event can access easily and quickly.
- If requiring these forms for an international trip, print forms in case internet is not available. Print for domestic trips as well if you are aware of limited internet access.
- Always keep printed documents in a safe location and with you during the trip.
- If requiring these forms for an international trip, forms might require notary.
- Update forms yearly or as information changes, providing electronic option for update if possible.
- A similar form for adults participating as leadership is also helpful in an emergency.

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