



## *Volunteer's Code of Conduct*

Our children are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this *Volunteer's Code of Conduct* as a condition of my providing services to the children and youth of our parish, school, facility or diocese.

Volunteers shall:

- Model for children Christian virtues and avoid ambiguous or non-virtuous behavior.
- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity and consideration.
- Avoid situations where they are alone with children and youth at Church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement with children and youth rather than criticism, competition or comparison.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and youth or parents without previous written approval of the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children or youth without prior approval of the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report to the pastor, administrator or appropriate supervisor and the Department of Human Services any suspected abuse. Failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children or youth.

Volunteers must not:

- Touch a child in a sexual or other inappropriate manner
- Pose any health risk to children and youth (i.e., no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake or slap children and youth.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten or degrade children and youth.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and youth.
- Use, possess or be under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol at any time while volunteering.

I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal as a volunteer with children and youth.

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Volunteer's Signature

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Date

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Printed Name