

# **REACH GONZAGA**

## **GROUP LEADER AND CHAPERONE POLICY**

EACH GROUP LEADER AND CHAPERONE MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS SHEET BEFORE SIGNING THE CHAPERONE APPLICATION. PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOUR ENTIRE GROUP UNDERSTANDS AND ABIDES BY THESE POLICIES.

### **Basic Role of Chaperones**

1. The Reach Youth Ministry staff and teams depend on the chaperones to help facilitate order and serve as supports for the youth. It is important that the chaperones, together with the staff and volunteers, be examples of obedience and cooperation on site.
2. Because of the physical demands of the youth conference weekend, it is necessary that chaperones be in good health. It is not recommended that people with health problems participate as chaperones.
3. Chaperones should be constantly assessing the youth in their group to be aware of any special needs. They need to be comfortable talking, sharing, and praying with their youth. Adult chaperones are responsible for their youth at all times.

### **A chaperone's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:**

1. **Alcohol and Drugs**
  - a. All state laws concerning alcohol and drugs (including tobacco) will be strictly enforced.
  - b. Possession and/or consumption of alcohol or drugs are not permitted on site during the conference.
  - c. All conference site buildings are smoke-free facilities.
2. **Participation**
  - a. It is expected that ALL conference participants be present at scheduled sessions during the conference and in appropriate places following the evening sessions.
  - b. At NO time is a youth participant allowed to leave the conference site without a chaperone.
3. **Housing**
  - a. Chaperones are responsible for making sure that youth are in the proper place at curfew time. We are guests on the Gonzaga campus and ask that it be left in better condition than it was found.
  - b. Absolutely NO food or drink, except water, is allowed in the housing facilities.
  - c. There will be separate, gender specific bathrooms for those 18 and older in accordance with the policies of the Spokane Diocese
4. **Appropriate Dress – Group Leaders/Chaperones are expected to enforce this dress code.**
  - a. All participants are expected to dress in a fashion that represents modesty and good taste which respects the God-given dignity of the wearer, and other participants.
  - b. Clothing must cover all undergarments and midriffs. Bikini tops, low cut tops, mini skirts, short shorts or other inappropriate attire is not to be worn at any time at the conference. Males must wear shirts at all times. Clothing should not be worn that displays words, pictures, symbols or images that are considered vulgar, obscene or otherwise improper for a Catholic conference.
5. **Insubordination**
  - a. It is expected that adults will collaborate with and follow the direction of all conference staff, security and volunteers.
  - b. Any lack of cooperation or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
6. **Lights Out**
  - a. ALL youth must be in the sleeping areas by 11:30pm. Lights out at midnight!
  - b. An atmosphere of quiet and respect is expected after lights out.
  - c. Chaperones must complete room checks to account for youth in their group. Room checks are to be done by two adults to avoid any one adult being alone with a youth.
7. **Appropriate language**
  - a. Participants are expected to use positive and up-building speech during the conference.
  - b. Foul and abusive language will not be permitted.
8. **Health Issues**
  - a. Any special needs should be reported to the conference staff prior to registration.