

Shepherdstown UMC
Youth Participant Agreement

I, _____ (please print your name), desire to participate in one or more events sponsored by the Youth Ministry at Shepherdstown United Methodist Church during the period from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011. I understand that my participation in any of these events is conditional upon my agreement to abide by the Shepherdstown United Methodist Youth Ministry Code of Conduct that is attached to this Agreement. I have read this Code of Conduct and I understand it.

I voluntarily pledge to follow the Code of Conduct during my participation in Youth Ministry events. I understand that if I fail to abide by this Code of Conduct, I may not be allowed to continue to participate in Youth Ministry events. I also understand that there may be other consequences of my actions if I fail to abide by the Code of Conduct, and that some of those consequences are outlined on the attached Code of Conduct.

Student _____ **Date** _____
Signature

We, the undersigned parents of the student identified above, have read the Code of Conduct and support its purpose and enforcement.

Parent _____ **Parent** _____
Signature *Signature*

Date _____ **Date** _____

Shepherdstown United Methodist Church
YOUTH MINISTRY
CODE OF CONDUCT

All activities of Shepherdstown UMC Youth Ministry are created to be Christ-centered. With that in mind, all participants in Youth Ministry programs, whether lay volunteers, staff leaders or students, should understand that they are participating in activities that are intended to expand God's kingdom and, as such, their conduct should be appropriate for that purpose.

The Youth Ministry has adopted this Code of Conduct so that its participants can easily understand the expectations for their behavior as members of the Youth Ministry community of believers. This Code of Conduct will be enforced for all participants (students, lay leaders and staff) in Youth Ministry activities. In order to participate in Youth Ministry events, all students will be required to sign this Code of Conduct to indicate their understanding of its terms and their commitment to abide by it. Copies of this Code of Conduct can be obtained any time from the Youth Ministry Staff

Participants in Youth Ministry activities agree that, during their participation in, or attendance at, Youth Ministry events, mission trips or other activities:

- They will support the purpose of the event;
- They will follow the direction of the Youth Ministry staff (and other adult leaders) who are responsible for the event;
- They will not possess or consume alcoholic beverages;
- They will not possess or use illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia;
- They will not misuse prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs or other mood-altering substances;
- They will not wear inappropriate or provocative clothing;
- They will not use profanity or vulgar gestures; or engage in conduct that is intended to be disrespectful, abusive or harmful to other participants or third parties or that is insubordinate to event leaders;
- They will not leave the site of Youth Ministry events in which they are participating without the knowledge and permission of Youth Ministry staff;
- They will not engage in fighting, violent or aggressive behavior, or use physical force or restraint in a manner that is disrespectful, abusive or potentially harmful;
- They will not possess or use music, publications or other items that contain explicit sexual references or photographs; and
- They will not engage in conduct, in public or private, that is overtly sexual or that would constitute inappropriate displays of affection.

In the event that any participant is accused of violating this Code of Conduct, they will be subject to one or more of the following consequences. These consequences shall be assessed in the discretion of the senior member of the Youth Ministry staff who is involved in the leadership of the event at the time of the accusation if, in his or her reasonable judgment, the accusations are probably accurate.

- Dismissal from the Youth Ministry event (which may include, being sent home, without refund, in which case parents will be responsible for incremental transportation costs);
- The violation may be brought to the attention of the student's parents;
- If required by law, or upon the consent of parents, or upon inquiry of legal authorities, the violation may be reported to appropriate legal authorities, in the case of prohibited conduct that is illegal;
- In extreme cases, the participant may be prohibited from participating in future Youth Ministry events; and
- Other consequences appropriate under the circumstances.