

ESCALATE THE CONVERSATION

THE POWER OF PRESENCE - YOUTH GROUP PHONE POLICY

Hi! Welcome to the _____ Youth Group (YG)! We are so excited you will be joining us and we cannot wait to get to know you! We believe God has a plan for your life and He wants to use you to impact the lives of those around you, in your classroom, at school, and in your family! To give you the chance to connect more deeply with the other youth and staff, to make new friends, try new things and most importantly, hear from God, the _____ Church Board is asking all youth to “check tech” at the door. What does that look like?

At the Church, during youth:

1. All youth and staff (except a designated leader) put their phones or any internet device on silent and in the designated spot. This applies to guests as well. Alternatively, feel free to leave your device in your bag, at home or in the car.
2. Devices will be locked away safely for the duration of the event and available at the end of youth.
3. As the church is responsible for the safety and well being of everyone on church property, once you have your device, there is a zero tolerance for accessing/showing pornography, violence, bullying, foul language or inappropriate material. Any violation of this will result in loss of this privilege while at YG. If you aren't certain about your choices, please talk to a youth leaders. We recognize that inappropriate material can pop up unexpectedly especially on social media, YT, Snapchat and some VG so we recommend not even opening these apps. We want to challenge you to find new ways to communicate and interact with your peers.

Youth Events & Outings:

Please leave your device at home and use this opportunity to unplug and connect with other youth in person. We will have a designated photographer and a designated contact person so parents can call if they need to get a hold of you right away.

Leaders Commitment:

We commit to leading by example. We will leave our phones in our jackets or car for the short time we are with you. We commit to being fully present to connect, listen and lead you! The Board realizes it will be difficult for you not to be accessible to others during youth outings. We ask you to be ultra-aware that youth are sensitive to double standards. Please do everything you can to limit device use during a youth event and make yourself fully accessible for eye contact, smiles, conversations and connections.

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Parents:

We need your help. Please encourage your kids to be fully present. We have such a small window with them so we want to protect it. If it is urgent for you to reach your child during youth you can call the youth leader anytime at: _____.

We thank you all for your courage as we ask you to step into something new! We recognize it may be uncomfortable at first but we trust that God is going to do something amazing with your willingness to put away distractions and be more open to his still quiet voice. We are praying for you. Please let us know if you'd like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Church Board