



First Baptist Church, Battlefield

Youth Ministry

Policy Guide

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Pulse Ministry

It's all about HEART

Mission Statement

We want to turn students into fully devoted followers of Christ, who in their everyday lives will live out the purposes of Honoring, Encouraging, Accepting, Reaching, and Training, as commanded in Matthew 22:37-40 and 28:19-20. To achieve this purpose and to remain faithful to Scripture, we believe this mission statement can be best realized through the family as instituted by God and commanded in Ephesians 6:1-4.

Expanded Mission Statement

Honor – Worship is more than a time set aside for music, prayers, and a sermon. We want students to understand that worship is a lifestyle. Students need to understand that their bodies are living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God as stated in Romans 12:1. We want to convey that the choices they make do matter.

Encourage – Ephesians 2:19 states that we are no longer aliens but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household. Simply stated, we belong to a family. This family of believers is a dynamic community of students, parents, and adults interrelating with each other on a regular basis so as to build trustworthy and healthy relationships in which students are **known, held accountable, and encouraged** in their spiritual journey.

Accept – Our goal is to help students understand that they are part of the present church and that they do not have to wait until they are older to serve. To help give students direction to serve we want them to understand their **S.H.A.P.E.**

Spiritual Gifts: How God has gifted you?

Heart: What do you love to do? What are you passionate about?

Abilities: What are your natural talents?

Personality: How does your personality affect the way that you do ministry?

Experiences: How can you use your past experiences, good and bad, to help others?

Reach – In Luke 15 Jesus helps us to see that lost people matter to God and because they matter to God they should matter to us. We are also told in Acts 1:8 to travel to the ends of the earth to be witnesses of God's love for people. We are committed to helping students cultivate a love for non-believers. Through evangelism support groups which provide effective and applicable training we will strive to develop students into campus missionaries which will result in students leading other students to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Train – Hebrews 6:1 instructs us to leave the elementary teachings of the faith and move into maturity in Christ. This process is one of building relationships between spiritual leaders and students, instruction from the Bible, and then building **H.A.B.I.T.S.** into their lives that will help them continue to grow in their faith.

Hang time with God

Accountability with another believer

Bible memorization

Involvement with a local church body

Tithing commitment

Study of the Bible

The Pulse Ministry Values

Bible-Centered – having a Christ-like attitude in applying scriptural principles to daily life (*2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*).

Building Relationships – each student is welcomed by their peers, belongs to the group, and is known by others (*Acts 2:42 & 46 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...*).

Purposeful – a realization that we reap what we sow and every decision made has a course of direction behind it (*Hosea 10:12 - Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you*).

Real – a two part process of: a) being transparent with our lives before others; and b) being able to give and receive constructive criticism to facilitate growth (*Ephesians 4:15 - Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ*).

Respect – out of reverence for God, and recognizing that all people are created in His image, we value individuals and their opinions with a willingness to listen (*1 Peter 2:17 - Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king*).

Student Expectations

Behavior – When attending programs and events students should be in control of their bodies. If a student is disruptive, rude to others, abuses privileges, has a disrespectful behavior, or is aggressive they will be given a Behavior Notice. The leader of the activity and the Minister of Youth will meet with the student and complete a Behavior Notice. A first time offense will result in a Warning. A second time offense will result in notifying the student's parents. A third offense will result in a one week suspension from the program. Each meeting will result in the leader, the Minister of Youth, the student, and the parent signing the Behavior Notice. Behavior that involves hitting, drug use, use of a weapon, inappropriate sexual advances and/or any other gross negligence will result in the immediate removal of the student and possible law enforcement involvement.

Respect – Out of reverence for God, and recognizing that all people are created in His image, we value others. We ask that the words that a student chooses to use are positive and affirming. Any pictures or jokes that a student should choose to show or tell others should serve to build up a person. This also extends to the way a student chooses to show affection to one another.

Apparel – All apparel worn to a program or event should be positive and modest. Anyone wearing shirts that contain profanity, beer logos, or any other type of non-affirming messages will be asked by the active leader to change. Clothing worn should be modest. Girls are expected to wear a one piece suit or a shirt over any two piece suit. Guys are expected to wear a shirt at all times except while swimming. Any other apparel worn such as spaghetti straps, midriiffs, cut off tees, or short shorts may be asked to change their clothing. Guys or girls undergarments should not be visible. Questionable apparel that is not otherwise specified will be addressed on an individual basis at the discretion of the active leader.

Personal Items – Personal items that can cause a distraction to others or result in harm to another person are not allowed. Mobile phones, iPods, mp3 players, DVD players, and any other electronic devices should be turned off while attending a program or event. These items may be used while traveling to and from a location. The leader of the program or event retains the right to confiscate any of these items if they become distracting. Pulse Ministries is not responsible for any item that is broken, lost, or stolen.

Personal items such as knives, firearms, fireworks, tobacco, alcohol, and illegal narcotics are not allowed. Items of this nature will result in the expulsion of the student and possible law enforcement involvement.

Items such as lighters, matches, pocketknives, water balloons, and other items of this nature are not encouraged but may be allowed depending on the program or event.

Leader Expectations

Pledge Card – We have high expectations for the leaders that work with students. At the beginning of each school year we ask for leaders to sign a pledge card. This card is a covenant for them to love students. The leader acknowledges students may only see Jesus through them. In order for students to see Jesus through them a leader should constantly be working on their relationship with God. They also must admit that ministry is not performed alone. It is interdependent upon others who are part of a team to love students. Leaders also agree to work together with those who form the team, to faithfully carry out their responsibilities, and to attend the team meetings. They also understand that God has given us five purposes for living our lives and for creating a healthy student ministry. Leaders agree and submit to the five purposes: Worship, Ministry, Fellowship, Evangelism, and Discipleship.

Conduct – The conduct of a leader is to be above reproach. Leaders should demonstrate a high level of character and integrity in their daily lives. They should demonstrate a life of servanthood and Christ-like behavior in both word and deed.

Touch – Appropriate touch is important for the development of a student. Appropriate touch are things like high fives, handshakes, and hugs. Inappropriate touches can result in the immediate removal of the leader and possible criminal charges.

Interaction – In order for leaders to model a Christ-like life before students they must be involved in the lives of students. This only happens by spending time with students outside of church programs and events. This involvement would be seen in leaders attending school activities, taking students to the movies, taking them out for ice cream, sending them encouragement cards, calling them, texting them and anything else of this nature. Inappropriate interaction would be interacting with students of the opposite sex in a situation that is not public. No form of dating or sexual interaction is allowed between a leader and student. Nor any distribution of sexually explicit information, weapons, illegal narcotics, tobacco, and/or alcohol is allowed from a leader to a student. This activity will result in the immediate removal of the leader and possible criminal charges.

Program and Activity Policies

Discipline

We want students to have a safe and positive experience while attending the Pulse Ministry. This means that students need to control their bodies and mouths in a way that is positive and affirming to those students around them. *See Student Expectations Section.*

Drivers

Drivers must be at least 21 years of age, with copies of a valid driver's license and insurance card on file in the church office.

Electronic Devices

Most locations attended by church youth groups strongly discourage the use of mobile phones, iPods, mp3 players, DVD players, and any other electronic devices. In an effort to maintain compliance and consistency, and to assist students in maintaining focus we strongly discourage the use of any electronic devices. These items may only be used during travel and then it is the responsibility of the student to secure these items when not in use. Leaders reserve the right to confiscate any electronic device brought on a trip at any time if their use is deemed inappropriate.

Incident Report

If a student is injured in an activity, the leader of that activity will first seek appropriate medical attention for the student. The leader is then responsible to contact the parents of the student and to file an incident report.

Information Collection

When any student attends a program or activity they are asked to complete an information card. This information will be used to contact a student's parent or legal guardian in case of an emergency or accident. Students will also be asked to complete a personal profile form but this is not required. All information obtained from any student will be kept in a secure location and will not be shared with any other institution or person except for pulse ministry staff and leaders.

Medical Release Forms

The medical needs of students are constantly changing. Because of this it is necessary to require a signed medical release form for each trip that students are participating in outside of the Springfield area.

Medications

If a student attending an activity is taking a prescription medication, then the information for that medication needs to be listed on the medical release form and the medication needs to be given to the leader in the original pharmacy labeled prescription bottle.

Youth Ministry Council

The Youth Council exists as the hub for the Youth Ministry of First Baptist Church of Battlefield. The members of the council work along-side the Minister of Youth to provide purpose and direction for the youth ministry. If the situation would arise in which the church was without a youth pastor, the Youth Council would function in that capacity. While consideration will be given to recommendations from the Council, final determination as to selection of new members will be determined by the Minister of Youth.

Composition of the Youth Council

- Up to 5 Adults
- Up to 4 Youth
- Minister of Youth and other ministerial staff

Youth Influencer Qualifications

- Active member of the church
- Spiritually astute
- Signed commitment card

Adult Leader Qualifications

- Active member of the church
- Spiritually astute
- Signed commitment card

Duties & Obligations

- Attend quarterly meetings
- Participate in a yearly planning retreat

Terms of Service

- Youth Influencer
 - 1 year term of service
 - No limit on number of terms to serve but may serve no more than 2 consecutive terms
 - Must reapply each year for another term
- Adult Leader
 - 2 year term of service
 - May serve two consecutive terms but no more than 4 consecutive years

Only Youth Council Members will have voting privileges. All other persons, Ministerial staff, and interning staff are welcome to participate in the meetings. The Council will be responsible to elect a Chairman and a secretary. The Chairman will work alongside the youth pastor to schedule and lead the meetings. The secretary is responsible for notifying the members of meetings and disseminating any other pertinent information, along with taking minutes for the meeting.

Parent Fundraising Committee

The purpose of this committee is to establish guidelines concerning the means for raising funds and the methods for distributing and utilizing funds by the youth. This committee is made up of youth parents and designed to implement a fundraising strategy for youth.

Fundraising Policies

- Students may use funding they have earned through their participation in fundraising events sponsored by Pulse Ministries, toward any Pulse Ministry activities or trips.
- Students may not use their funding for any activities or trips in the community or at another church that are not approved by the Minister of Youth and/or the Youth Ministry Council.
- Students may use funding from their account for no more than half of any deposit due for above stated approved events.
- Students may roll their funding over in their account from one year to the next.
- Any funding not used by an individual will be rolled into the general fund upon their graduation from high school.
- Funds from a student's account will be rolled into the general account if they have inactivity in their account for more than **6 months** at any one period.