

Approved Adult Leader Youth Ministries Social Media and Technology Covenant

This covenant is an outline of those obligations of an Approved Adult representing the congregation on any social networking site such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, or similar sites as well as general use of technology.

1. When you are the adult driver and you are driving youth in your car or church vehicle, please **do not** use your cell phone. Instead, pull over to the side of the road to a safe spot or hand your cell phone over to a passenger.
2. Please refrain from using your cell phone at youth events. If you have to return a call or text, please excuse yourself from the room to do it.
3. Each retreat or camp may have their own specific technology guidelines. Please follow and model these guidelines.
4. Texting messages **to youth** should be limited to youth group reminders, event changes, small group encouragements, and other ministry-related texts. Other important conversations should happen face-to-face.
5. **Do not** use your cell phone camera, personal camera, or any other digital recorder in sleeping areas or bathroom areas.
6. Pictures of children and youth taken while at a church event **cannot** be posted on websites, facebook, or google plus, or through any other electronic means without a signed written consent by parent. See individual's emergency form for approval or denial.
7. Only youth staff may create and administer official social media pages for the Youth Ministries and church-related youth ministry programs.
8. **Before accepting** a youth's friend request on facebook, remember that youth will have access to your pages and facebook comments. Adults who accept friend requests from youth **should only** communicate on a youth's facebook wall and **not through** private messages. Adults are encouraged to communicate with youth through the closed groups set up by the youth staff.
9. All approved adults agree to comply with using their own name on all social networks, and to understand that at all times that they are to represent the congregation's ministry and ensure that their postings will be appropriate to the mission. All confidential and sensitive information will be kept private and will not be posted. Should any Approved Adult have a concern about the proper nature of a posting, they agree to consult with their supervisor and/or leadership person before posting. Post **only positive** comments about youth events and activities at church
10. Talk to the youth staff about any further technological questions or concerns. **When in doubt, talk to us.**

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____