

YOUTH MINISTRY POLICIES

1. A **medical form** is required for each youth and adult that participates in any Youth Ministry Activity (passed October 1994) (amended April 1998)
2. **Confirmation Policy:** see attachment (passed March 1997, amended November 2000; updated November 2002; amended November 2007)
3. Only **licensed drivers** age 21 and over will be allowed to transport youth to Youth Ministry activities. (passed February 1996)
4. Youth who attend our tri-parish RE / Confirmation program will be charged \$60 **registration fee**. Outside parishes will pay the same. Registration fees will be waived for the youth of adult leaders who volunteer with the high school RE / Confirmation classes. (Passed March, 1996; amended February 2006, amended November 2007)
5. **Alcohol, tobacco, weapons, and other drugs are forbidden** by youth at any Youth Ministry activity. If youth bring or use any alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs during activities their parents will be notified and asked to pick them up. A follow-up meeting will take place with Parents, Youth Minister, and Pastor or Parish Life Coordinator. (Passed June 1996; amended January 1998; amended March 2002)
6. **Adult leaders** are forbidden to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs when youth are present. (passed 1996)
7. All adult leaders must submit an application for a **background check**. It is also mandatory that they attend **Virtus: "Protecting God's Children"** awareness training session. (passed January 2005)
8. **Nazareth Farm --- West Virginia**
Two adults (1 female and 1 male) and 6 youth are eligible to attend the Service Week in WV. Youth must have completed their sophomore year in high school to be eligible. Adult chaperones must be at least 25 years old. Four underclassmen will be drawn and two seniors. A drawing will take place at a YM gathering. (Passed October 2001)

9. **“March for Life” - Washington DC**

Due to limited number of slots given to the TH Deanery, there is always the possibility we cannot take all the youth who sign up for this trip. In the event of having to limit participation:

“The March for Life” trip will be offered to any youth that is interested in going to this event. If we are informed that there is a limit that we can send, there will be a lottery. 2/3 of the group will be youth that have never gone before and 1/3 will be previous participants. A drawing will take place at a YM gathering. (Passed October 2001)

10. Youth volunteers who have participated in **IN Nazareth Farm** (Brown County) will be eligible to volunteer at Nazareth Farm in WV. Youth may not participate in both Nazareth Farms in the same summer if there is a waiting list. (passed November 2001)

11. Ten or more slots (or maximum of 20 from our 3 parishes and St. Agnes in Nashville) are available for youth participation in **IN Nazareth Farm**. Seven people who have never volunteered at either WV or IN Nazareth Farm are eligible for the drawing. The drawing will take place at a YM gathering. Three people who have participated in WV or IN Nazareth Farms will be eligible for the drawing. (passed November 2001)

12. Three returnees will be selected to attend the **IN Nazareth Farm**. All seniors who haven't gone to any NF will be a priority and then other underclassmen that haven't been before will be drawn to make up the 10 volunteers sent from our parishes. (Passes April 2003)

13. All **fundraising money** will be used for Youth Ministry Program expenses such as: Youth Retreats, Conferences, Leadership Training, Mission Trips, or other spiritual opportunities offered for youth. Also, some fundraising money will be appropriated for **Administrative fees**. All fundraising money not used in the fiscal year will roll over to the next fiscal year. (Passed January 2005) (revised February 2010)

14. Youth are **prohibited from using cell phones or other electronic devices** at Re / Confirmation classes, Retreats, or other YM activities designated by the Youth Minister. If caught using these devices they will be confiscated by an adult leader or Youth Minister and returned after the event. (Passed March 2006)

Policies reviewed and approved January 2005 by YM Commission

