

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

All middle school and high school students are invited to be a part of Wildwood's Student Ministry. We desire to create an environment where students feel welcome, safe, and known as they seek to follow Jesus together to the glory of God. Keeping this in mind, our ministry also recognizes the need for a healthy set of parameters. Even Christ himself established a set of guidelines for his followers as he encouraged them to strive to become perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect (Matt. 5:48). Those guidelines were given not to rob them of their joy, but to give them protection, blessing and an abundant life (John 10:10).

The purpose of our Student Expectations document is to lay out expectations for all students to abide by in order to create a safe and welcoming environment for every student present.

- **Respect Others** – treat one another as you would want to be treated (Luke 6:31). Every person has inherent value in Christ, and they deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.
- **Respect Your Leaders** – all students are asked to obey the instruction of our volunteer leaders and staff members. Flagrant disrespect will result in appropriate discipline. We ask that if a student is doubting what their leader is teaching or wants to question a belief, then please direct those questions to a staff member in a one-on-one setting.
- **Respect the Property** – all students are expected show care and concern for Wildwood's facilities and event space that is being used by Wildwood.
- **Respect the Scripture** – all students are expected to show respect to the teaching of God's Word by the staff and leaders. This includes times of discussion in groups and from the stage. If a student disagrees with the teaching, we ask that they bring that up in a separate meeting and not in front of their peers. We believe all of life's actions and beliefs should submit to God's Word.
- **Bullying** – we will not tolerate bullying of any kind. Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. In order for an action to be considered bullying it must be aggressive and include an imbalance of power (physical, embarrassing information, or popularity) and repetition. Bullying includes repeated actions of making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Bullying does not include accidental embarrassment, correction, or being excluded accidentally.
- **Public Display of Affection** – students are asked to not cuddle, kiss, or be physically affectionate during Wildwood programming or on Wildwood's grounds.
- **Controlled Substances** – we do not allow students to have any controlled substances or to be under the influence during our programming or on Wildwood's grounds. This includes, but not limited to, alcohol, smoking, vaping, and illegal drugs. If a student is suspected to be under the influence, the student's parents or guardians will be called immediately and will be separated from the other students.

- **Personal Devices** – cellphones, tablets, and other devices are asked to be turned off during programming. If it becomes a distraction, the leader might ask to take up the device and give it back after programming. If inappropriate media is being shared on the devices, parents will be contacted immediately, and we will request that the student does not bring any screen to our programming again.
- **Gender** – students are expected to join in the group of their biological gender during student ministry programming. We invite students who do not feel comfortable in the Male or Female bathroom to utilize the family bathroom in the South hallway near the gym.
- **Harassment** – our leaders and staff will not tolerate harassment of any kind. If a student is asked to stop a behavior and they refuse, then we will protect the victim by ensuring that the behavior is stopped and that the students are separated. Parents will be asked to help prevent communication between the students to the best of their ability.
- **Dress Code** – students are expected to dress appropriately during all programming and to not wear revealing clothes or inappropriate symbols or words. Dress code issues will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- **Wandering Off** – students are to stay in the designated areas and if they are found wandering off, it will be treated according to our disciplinary procedures.

When a guideline or rule is broken, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The student will be given a warning. (More severe infractions may be cause for fewer or no warnings and may warrant an immediate call or even dismissal.)
2. Upon the second infraction, the leader will again, with gentleness, counsel with the student and work toward correcting the behavior. If the student genuinely displays a correct change in behavior, the student will be readmitted into their previous setting. However, if the student evidences that their behavior will not be corrected, the student's family will be immediately contacted.
3. Arrangements will be made for the student to go home and a staff member will arrange to meet with the student and their parent or guardian to figure out when would be the best time for the student to be invited back.

The leadership at Wildwood reserves the right to change these guidelines or expectations for specific situations depending on the judgment of the Student Staff team.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, then please contact a staff member at Wildwood by calling the Church Office at 405-329-3939.