



LEADER GUIDELINES AGREEMENT

The goal of WoodsEdge is for each leader to serve and lead the students in a way that glorifies Christ and builds up the individual. Remember, “What one generation does in moderation, the next does in excess.” Students are watching you, so live and lead with outstanding character and integrity. We have chosen you to help us lead this trip because we trust you and trust your relationship with Christ. Even so, we want to clearly spell out to you what our expectation is for your behavior as a leader so that we are all on the same page. In order to make this happen, WoodsEdge Student Ministry has created a standard of conduct so that each participant will know what acceptable behavior is. For each trip WoodsEdge Student Ministry runs, all leaders will be required to adhere to this standard of conduct. Your integrity and effectiveness as a leader will be maintained as you adhere to the following:

1. Once committed to a WoodsEdge Student trip, we expect members to fully participate in all training meetings, devotional exercises and team meetings.
2. A Student Ministry trip is an excellent time for people (students and leaders alike) to focus on their relationship with the Lord. In order to do this, their focus needs to be on their devotions and their attitude toward service. To accomplish this and set a good example for the students, we are asking all participants to put their dating relationships on hold while they are on a trip and to not pursue new ones – with other leaders or with anyone at the host site. The purpose of this is to help everyone build strong relationships with other team members and to allow them to focus on their relationship with the Lord. All participants should refrain from any and all inappropriate touching. Examples are: kissing, backrubs, holding hands, feeding one another, sitting in one another’s laps, lying on each other, etc. Conduct like this will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Wait until you get home to pursue any kind of relationship, and you will have made the most of the time you were given in the field.
3. We are all members of a team. We are to compensate for each other, not criticize. Leading a trip can be very taxing mentally, emotionally, and physically. Please realize that these challenges can be significant for some team members. If a team member becomes overwhelmed, we need to support him or her with encouragement or service. Our challenges on this trip should stretch our spiritual growth and our endurance, but not to the point of harming oneself or others.
4. Be on time. Be respectful of the staff and other team members by being on time for all scheduled events. This includes all meals.

5. Dress modestly. Our goal is to represent WoodsEdge in a way that points to Jesus Christ. We want to do all that we can to help others focus on Him. In doing that, we ask that everyone dress modestly. When shorts are worn they must be longer than the extent of your fingers when arms are relaxed. Girls should not wear cleavage or stomach bearing shirts. Guys should not be bare-chested, wear half-shirts, tank top or mesh-type shirts. Clothing should not be worn in a manner that allows underwear to be seen. No clothes or hats may be worn that advertise alcohol, drugs or tobacco. For swimming, girls must have one-piece bathing suits. Team members must be dressed fully in team areas.
6. At no time is a team member allowed to dye/cut his or her hair or tattoo/pierce his or her body while on a trip or training. Inappropriate tattoos must be covered at all times.
7. Drugs. At no time shall the use or purchasing of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs be tolerated.
8. Fireworks. At no time will fireworks be purchased or set off during a WoodsEdge Student trip.
9. Language. Please guard your tongue. No swearing or unkind language.
10. When buying souvenirs, please use discretion with your purchases. If it isn't something you would share with the Student Pastor, it isn't something you should be buying. In years past, some students have purchased machetes or knives. These purchases will be immediately packed for shipping and remain packed until arrival at your home destination.
11. Team members will remember that they are a guest of the host site and the local church. Team members shall show respect towards the host and the facilities provided by the host site. Team members shall keep all areas clean, including their sleeping rooms, ministry areas, kitchen areas, and common areas. Food, at all times, must be in rodent and insect proof containers if taken from the kitchen area. Crumbs and wrappings must be properly disposed of to prevent infestation of insects and rodents. You as a leader are responsible for reminding the team members of these expectations.
12. Inappropriate touching. Leaders will be intentional to set a high standard in the area of physical touch. Even if your "love language" is physical touch, that doesn't give you a free pass to give/receive back rubs, give/receive full-frontal hugs, play with their hair, invade personal bubbles, etc. High fives, appropriate side hugs, etc. are good examples of appropriate physical contact. Some students will try to be "touchy feely" with you: redirect them in a loving way so that you help them and yourself. Be above reproach in this area, and you will protect yourself and this ministry from any sexual harassment claims.

- 13. Leaders will develop and maintain a servant attitude toward other leaders, staff, and the host site.

- 14. Leaders will respect and obey all Staff Members. The Staff will have your best interests at heart. For your safety and enjoyment of our time in the wilderness it is especially important to follow instructions from the Staff immediately, completely, and joyfully. Even if you can't see the reason for doing something remember you are committing yourself to following their leadership.

- 15. Refrain from complaining. Ask good questions about the trip so you will know what you are getting into. Once committed do not complain about circumstances, but look for what God wants to teach you.

- 16. Pranks. No leaders or team members shall prank, harass, or intimidate another team member, including placing any person in fear. If you prank someone, you will be sent home immediately at your own expense.

- 17. Opposite sex. DO NOT ever put yourself in a position where you are alone with the opposite sex. If a student of the opposite sex comes to you for counsel, and there is no one else around, tell them "I'd love to help you with this, but _____ (Mr. Guy Leader/Ms. Girl Leader) may be able to help you more." Then take them to an area with other people to be above reproach. Remember that students are highly prone to having romantic crushes on leaders, so DO NOT take advantage of their immaturity in order to make yourself feel loved (intentionally or unintentionally).

Leader Name: _____

Leader Signature: _____

DATE _____