

The Heights Next Generation Ministry Behavior and Expectation Policy

Goals:

The Heights Next Generation Ministry exists to help students and children live a God sized life and love. We succeed when we create an environment where students and children can learn the Bible and practice living out what the Bible teaches. To ensure this happens, we need to maintain certain boundaries so that students and children can enjoy their time at church while focusing on growing and living out their faith in Jesus.

Expectations:

- Every student and child are expected to respect all adults (staff, volunteers, and others)
- Every student and child are expected to respect other students/children regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, and social status.
- Students and children will not be disruptive during times of teaching including large group experiences, small groups, and worship. Disruptive behaviors can include but not limited to:
 - Talking when the leader is talking
 - Texting and using phones inappropriately. *Examples would include being on social media or texting when class/group is reading the Bible together.*
 - General touching and horseplay with those around them
 - Intentional behavior to disrupt other students/children or leaders. This would include continuing an addressed behavior even if the student's intent is not to be disruptive
- Students and children must not wander around church during programming time.
- Students and children are expected to stay the full length of programming unless a family situation requires them to leave early.
- Students and children are expected to respect ALL the property of the church including furniture, outside equipment, decorations, and any other property that belongs to the church or members of the church.
- Alcohol, drugs, vapes, weapons, fireworks, or any other object deemed inappropriate and/or dangerous by church staff are never allowed at youth events.
- Clothing should not contain offensive language, pictures, or inappropriate context.

Enforcing Expectations

To ensure we create an environment where students and children can learn about Jesus and grow in their faith, we have to enforce our boundaries and expectations. If a student/child fails to adhere to our boundaries and guidelines the following actions take place in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17

1st Offense: A verbal warning

2nd Offense. A leader or staff member will have a conversation with student/child asking them to stop the behavior along with guidance to proper behavior.

3rd Offense: A staff member of The Heights will contact a parent/guardian to advise them of continual behavior issues at hand.

4th Offense: If behavior persists, a staff member of The Heights will call a meeting with the student/child and parents to enforce a behavior contract. A behavior contract outlines expected behavior and consequences if the behavior continues.

5th Offense. If continual behavior persists, student/child will not be allowed to attend programming for a specified amount of time.

Please note: Staff have the right to contact parents immediately if certain disruptive behaviors occur on campus. In severe cases such as intentional breaking of rules or fighting, staff has the right to immediately ask the student/child to not attend the specified program.

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians:

- Respect, understand, and support The Heights staff and volunteer leaders.
- Recognize and understand that church staff and leaders must enforce the above guidelines and policies to ensure a safe environment for all.
- Teach your child(ren) to respect authority, rules, and expectations within our church including appropriate behavior during all services.
- Emphasize the importance of being a good role model and witness for Christ in the church, the community, and their home.
- Ultimately, your child's behavior at church is your responsibility as you are their primary faith trainer.