



RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Current Policies and Guidelines (Youth Ministry)

Quick reference only, not a complete list.



Volunteer Qualifications

·Adult volunteers serving as teachers with children under eighteen years of age are required to be members of Riverside Baptist Church. Adult volunteers who serve in non-teaching roles are to have been in regular attendance for at least six months.

·Adults and Youth must fill out a Volunteer Information Form and sign that they agree to all rules and policies listed on such forms.

·Youth may only volunteer one Sunday a month, under the guidance of a team of two adults and in the older preschool classroom and above.

·Background check needs to be current and on file for all volunteers 18 years of age and older.

·Volunteers are to participate in training provided by RBC that relates to appropriate interaction with children under 18 years of age, as well as procedures to follow if child abuse is suspected.





Youth Ministry Areas

1. General Expectations

- Ministry is a privilege, not a right. Leaders are expected to model Christlike conduct inside and outside of church (1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Cor. 11:1).
- Treat students with respect and godly care at all times.

2. Two-Adult Rule

- At least two unrelated adult leaders must be present for all student ministry events, meetings, or trips.
- Never be alone in a private space with a student of any age or gender.
- If a private conversation is needed (e.g., counseling), do it in a visible, public place or where another adult is nearby.

3. Appropriate Conduct

- Touch: Keep physical contact brief, public, and appropriate (handshakes, high-fives, side hugs). No lap sitting, roughhousing, massages, or lingering physical contact.
- Speech: Never use demeaning, sexual, or abusive language. Speak in a way that builds up and points students to Christ.
- Discipline: Never use physical punishment. Redirect, remove from the situation, or call parents if behavior is disruptive or unsafe.



Youth Ministry Areas Cont.

4. Communication with Students

- Use group texts, group chats, or church-approved platforms whenever possible.
- If one-on-one communication is needed (call, text, DM), include another leader or the parent (e.g., screenshot the message or copy them).
- No private, disappearing, or secret communications (e.g., Snapchat).
- Be cautious with humor, tone, and emojis—keep communication Christ-honoring.

5. Transportation

- Never transport a student alone in your vehicle unless you have explicit parental permission and another leader has been informed.
- Preferably travel in groups (carpools, vans, buses).

6. Event & Trip Guidelines

- Maintain student-to-leader ratios (about 1:8 for middle school, 1:10 for high school).
 - Sleeping arrangements must always separate students and adults.
 - Male leaders stay with male students; female leaders stay with female students.
 - Curfews and schedules must be communicated and enforced.
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Youth Ministry Areas Cont.

7. Reporting Concerns

- If you suspect or witness abuse, neglect, or inappropriate conduct, report it immediately to the Student Ministry Director/Pastor.
- Do not promise secrecy to a student. Assure them you care and will get them help.
- Follow state law if you are a mandatory reporter. When in doubt, report.

8. Health & Safety

- Do not give out medicine without parental permission.
- Follow the “Healthy Student” principle: if a student is sick, they should not attend events.
- Know emergency procedures (fire, severe weather, medical).
- Fill out an Incident Report Form for any accidents, injuries, or disciplinary removals.

9. Technology & Media

- No unauthorized photos or videos of students.
 - Only use church-approved cameras or devices for ministry events.
 - Never post student photos on personal social media without parental consent.
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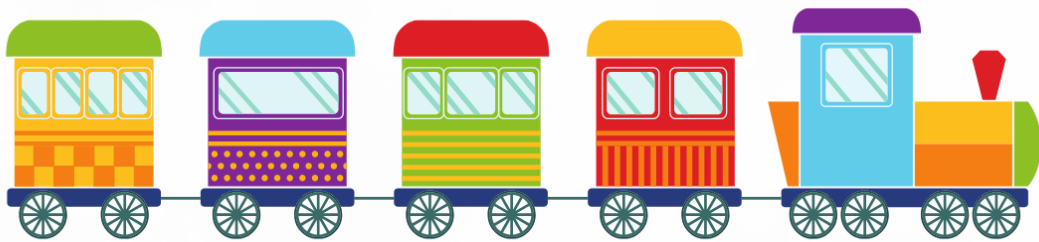


Youth Ministry Areas Cont.

10. Sexual Integrity & Boundaries

- Leaders must live above reproach in dating and sexual conduct.
 - Romantic/sexual relationships with students (even if legal) are strictly forbidden.
 - Any leader found guilty of misconduct will be immediately removed from ministry and reported if required.
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Train up a child
IN THE WAY
he should go,



and when he is old
HE WILL NOT
depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6