

Big Beaver UMC STORM

Code of Conduct

The STORM (youth group) at Big Beaver United Methodist Church has established a code of conduct to govern behavior at youth activities (including but not limited to Youth Group Meetings, Youth Group Activities, Sunday School, and WOW). It is expected that all youth participating in any church function will conduct themselves according to the following guidelines:

- 1) BBUMC STORM exhibit GODLY LOVE toward each other; which mean no excessive public displays of affection or inappropriate sexual behavior.
- 2) BBUMC STORM activities are DRUG FREE (no smoking, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol).
- 3) BBUMC STORM glorify the Lord in language and gestures. There will be no swearing or use of offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate language or physical gestures.
- 4) BBUMC STORM clothing should reflect Christian humility. This means nothing overly tight or baggy that may reveal underclothes or private body parts; shorts should reach at least as far as one's fingertips on the thigh when standing; no bare midriffs; tank tops should be three fingertips wide at the shoulder (based on adult finger width). In addition, this means nothing see-through, backless, and strapless or with holes that expose private body parts. If bathing suits are to be worn at an event, bikinis are not allowed. Offensive t-shirts will not be allowed.
- 5) BBUMC STORM activities are NON-VIOLENCE ZONES towards people and/or property. There will be no fighting and no weapons of any kind. Any form of bullying, physical and/or verbal will not be tolerated. Church property will be respected and left in a better and cleaner way than it was found. If a mess is made, help will be given to clean it up, regardless of who made the mess.
- 6) There will be full respect for all youth and adults' opinions and beliefs. We would like our youth group to be a place where everyone can come, feel accepted, and feel good about themselves. We know that put-downs and criticisms make people feel rejected, hurt, and bad about themselves. We also know that hurting others in any way is wrong before God. Therefore, we will not put others down with words or actions, including no "name-calling."
- 7) Full participation in ALL activities while in attendance is expected, unless physically incapable. This includes coming with a positive attitude; being kind, courteous, and respectful to everyone; participating with God as the focus; being friendly and having fun. If it is necessary for a youth to leave before the event is over, an adult leader should be notified.
- 8) All electronic devices (cell phones, Game Boys and other game devices, CD and MP3 players, PDA, pagers, etc.) will be turned off during STORM events. If cell phones are taken on events or trips, the youth leaders must have the youth's

phone number on file. Electronic devices may only be used at the youth leaders' approval.

Consequences for Violations of the Code

- 1) One verbal warning by an adult leader for the first violation.
- 2) A second verbal warning is given with the expectation of a phone call to the parent or guardian should the behavior continue. Any electronic device will be taken away (returned to youth [parent on third time] after meeting/event).
- 3) The youth's parent or guardian will be contacted for additional violations. At local activities, youth will be released to parent or guardian; or if driving, youth may leave the property after the parent/guardian is notified. For out-of-town activities, after parent/guardian is contacted, the youth may be sent home early at their parent or guardian's expense. Should the violation occur in a way that prevents our knowing until after the trip, further consequences may involve loss of privilege of attending certain events or other appropriate actions.
- 4) Some extreme behaviors (fighting, swearing, drug/tobacco use, etc.) will not receive any warnings and parent or guardian will be contacted immediately.

This Code of Conduct is in effect from date noted below until either new Code of Conduct is made or Sept. 1st after youth graduates high school.

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct. I agree to abide by this code and personally accept responsibility for the consequences of any unacceptable behavior.

Signature of Youth Date

This is to certify that I agree with the Code of Conduct outlined above and that I agree with the consequences for violations of any of the rules. I also certify that I have read and discussed the Code of Conduct with the above youth.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date