

# BUMC TRIP COVENANT

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## General Items for All Trips

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This trip is a part of the ministry of the youth department of Bulverde United Methodist Church. While on the trip, we will be representing both the Christian faith and BUMC. As a church youth group, we will conduct ourselves individually and as a group in ways that are consistent with who we are and what we represent.

In a trip of our size, it will be important that we operate on trust and that everyone clearly understands the guidelines we will operate by and what is expected of each person. The trip guidelines below give the basic expectations for each of us to follow.

### Minimum Expectations

It is expected that everyone will abide by the rules and guidelines in this covenant. These are held to be the minimal expectations of any participant on any trip.

1. Alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, fireworks, weapons (**including knives**), or illegal drugs of any kind have no place in any trip taken by our church and will not be tolerated.
2. Illegal activity of any kind, including vandalism and shoplifting, have no place in any trip taken by our church. The law requires that we report any such incident to the police.
3. The purchase of inappropriate items such as condoms is prohibited.
3. We will respect the physical property of others, including the **vans or busses** we travel in and the **facilities** we stay at.
4. The **language** we use and our attitude needs to reflect the Christian nature of our group. Be positive and reflect who we are as a Christian community in all we say and do! Profanity, abusive language, derogatory comments and put downs have no place on our trip.
5. Everyone- youth and adults- will be expected to be **present and on time** for all events.
6. We are **never to be off by ourselves**. Make sure that you always have others with you when you are out.
7. The **adults** on the trip **need to know where we are at all times**. If we leave on an errand, we need to tell the adults where we are.
8. We need to be **in the building (room, tents, etc.) by curfew**.
9. We are never to get into a vehicle that is not with our group. We are never to go off with anyone who is not with our group.
10. We encourage expressions of affection and caring; however, this trip is not a date. Even if you are with your “sweety” (or you discover your “sweety” on this trip), expressions of romantic affection need to be appropriate to our trip. Save your “romantic interludes” for back home! Do not put yourself in an embarrassing situation.
11. Have fun, help others to have fun, and get to know others. Be kind and considerate of others on the trip.

# Violations of the Rules

Violations of our covenant fall into three groups: minor, moderate, and major.

**Minor violations** refer to those things which, though they may seem minor, either are inconsistent with who we are as a church youth group, or undermine what we are trying to accomplish. Adults need to immediately address any minor concerns and it will be expected that this speaking to the issue will be enough to resolve the issue. It is further expected that there will be no further need to deal with the issue. These types of violations really deal with teaching our team members what is expected on the trip. Consequences appropriate to the offense will be decided upon by the appropriate adult. Minor violations include things like:

- *Use of inappropriate language*
- *Being late for an activity*
- *Not working at the work site*
- *Removing oneself from the group*
- *Doing things that we have been asked not to do.*

**Moderate violations** refer to those things which require more than a word of instruction or correction. A moderate concern will require sitting down and dealing with the issue and involving the trip leader in the issue. Consequences appropriate to the offense will be decided upon by the trip leader and the appropriate adults. Moderate violations include:

- *Repeated violations of the minor rules*
- *Disrespect of any youth or adults on the trip*
- *Going off alone*
- *Missing a scheduled event*

**Major violations** refer to those things which not only do not belong on the trip, but which also fundamentally undermine the trip. The violations will result in the person's parents being called and being involved in the decision concerning the consequences. A major violation may result in someone being sent home. Major violations include:

- *The use of alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, illegal drugs, weapons, or sneaking out.*
- *Any illegal activity such as shoplifting or vandalism*
- *Physical fighting*
- *Inappropriate sexual activity*
- *Purchase of inappropriate items such as condoms*

Name of participant (PRINTED) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

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Signature of Parent