

Mountain View Christian Church
NextGen Ministries
Procedures & Practices

- 1) Classroom
 - a) Two-Adult Rule
 - i) Two adults must be in all children and youth Sunday School classes, Kids Worship, Wee Worship Nursery, and small groups. If a second adult is not available, either join another class or cancel the class and have the children join their parents.
- 2) Bathroom
 - a) General guidelines for taking students to the bathroom.
 - i) Keep outside door open
 - ii) An adult must take the student to the restroom, not a teen helper.
 - iii) Adults must use discretion when helping the younger children who need assistance.
- 3) Transportation
 - a) Personal Vehicles
 - i) Sponsors: To the best of their ability, sponsors should only give rides to the same gender in their personal vehicles. Sponsors should have clear directions and a sure idea of where the student lives before taking the student home. The ultimate goal is to have permission from the parent before the student enters the sponsors car.
 - b) Van
 - i) Sponsors: The ultimate goal is to have one male and one female sponsor in the van if both genders of students are in the van. The next best option is to have two sponsors.
If a second sponsor is not available, the van must stay in open areas.
 - ii) Seating: Rows should be one gender, mix gender seating is only allowed on the row directly behind the driver.
 - c) Bus
 - i) Sponsors: The ultimate goal is to have one male and one female sponsor, besides the driver, in the bus if both genders of students are in the van. The next best option is to have two sponsors. Only on rare circumstance should the bus not have two sponsors plus the driver.
 - ii) Seating: Mixed genders may not sit side by side, but may sit across the aisle.

4) Student Serving

a) Age Requirements

- i) Sunday School – no teens are allowed to help in classes. They should attend the class for their age group or attend the adult Sunday School class with their parents.
All children and teens are to be in a class if they are in the church building.
- ii) Nursery – girls 6th and up; boys – if their parents are serving in nursery that day
- iii) WeeWorship – 6th grade
- iv) Kids Worship – 7th grade
- v) Team 4:12 – Any high school graduate, who has completed training and a background check may volunteer.
- vi) Youth Group – Young Adults must have been graduated for at least two years to be able to assist with a high school small group or attend high school events and activities as a sponsor. These young adults may assist with middle school, again if regular volunteer requirements have been met.

b) Serving with Student Ministries

- i) Teens may assist under the following conditions:
 - (1) The student has attended Sunday School that morning. Exceptions to this rule may be requested by the parent of the teen, but the decision is up the minister of the class.
 - (2) Meets the age/grade minimum

c) Serving with Worship Ministry

- i) Students may attend jam sessions and practices after they have completed one semester of 6th grade.
- ii) Students may join apply to the youth praise band at the beginning of 7th grade. Application process will only be for assessment of skill, knowledge and spiritual walk. Even when the student is a part of the worship team, there may be a time period before they participate in a service.
At any time, the worship sponsor or Youth minister may decide that a period of rest is needed for a worship team member.
- iii) Students serving in the worship ministry will be held to a high standard due to the nature and position of this ministry. The expectation: each student is consistently (not constantly) walking in forward motion toward Christ. This does not mean that the student is to be perfect. With that being said, these are students, there will be trying times for them. Students may come to us when he/she feels they need to step back to focus on their relationship with Christ. However, if we feel it necessary, we (minister, worship sponsor) will offer truth with grace and love when needed, along with some “time off” for a designated period of time that will be determined by the minister and worship sponsor.

- d) Serving with Computer or Sound ministry
 - i) Students may begin training at the beginning of their 8th grade year.
 - ii) Students may begin running the sound or computer for Wednesday night youth services at the beginning of their 9th grade year, have completed three months of training and have been approved by the adult in charge of those ministries.
 - iii) Students may begin running sound or computer for Sunday morning worship at the discretion of the adult(s) in charge of those ministries.

5) Clothing

- a) Swimwear
 - i) Boys – no speedos
 - ii) Girls – wear one-piece swimsuit or wear a dark t-shirt over a two-piece
- b) Regular clothing
 - i) Clothing with profanity and or indecent images should be changed.
- c) Changing clothes
 - i) If necessary for an adult to change clothes in the same room as students, the adult should inform the students that they need to change and ask the students to leave the room or look away.

6) Student Relationships

- a) No touching – enough said.
 - i) Students are going to have “in-youth-group” relationships, or better yet, bring their significant other to youth group.
 - ii) The GOAL is no holding hands, so that they can focus on Jesus and building strong relationships with other believers. However, this is just not going to be able to be a zero-tolerance policy.

7) Behavior

a) Truth with Grace and Love

- i) At all times, correction of behavior should be done in truth, with grace and love.
- ii) Keep in mind a high percentage of our students have not been raised in a Christ-like atmosphere nor do they have “church” experience to help them discern proper behavior.
- iii) Also remember, they are young. No matter what age they are – the frontal lobe of their brains are still forming.
- iv) Before addressing any situation, remember what you were like when you were young to gain perspective.

b) Discipline/correction

i) Steps to take in correcting undesired behavior.

- (1) Verbally ask the student to stop.

“Samantha, could you please stop talking.”

- (2) Discretely ask the student to step away from the group, either to the side or back of the room or out in the hall. Take this time to teach the student what the behavior is inappropriate at this time and the change that needs to happen. You may also inform them, that their parents will be contacted if the issue happens again.

- (3) Remove the student from the room. Contact the parents and discuss with them the situation. They may come pick up the student or the student may remain outside of the group for the rest of the activity.

The student will be allowed to return the next week with a clean slate.

- (4) If the student must be removed from the group repeatedly, the volunteers involved will meet to determine further course of action. We will do everything in our power to continue the student’s participation in church activities. However, student leadership privileges, such as concession stand, youth worship band, volunteering with children’s programs, may be suspended for a period of time determined by a minister.

ii) Extreme single incidents

- (1) If there is an incident that put other students and adults in danger, parents of all students directly involved will be notified with a request to meet. The situation will be resolved as soon as possible with consequences being established by a minister for the behavior.

8) Connecting with Students

a) Hosting Extra Activities

- i) Small group leaders are encouraged to have extra activities with their small group.
- ii) If a sponsor is going to host an activity outside scheduled activities, the youth minister should be informed beforehand. Why?
 - (1) If a parent calls the youth minister for more information, the minister can answer those questions in a confident manner.
 - (2) The youth minister may be able to share insights to help with the activity.
 - (3) Sponsors should always be proactive to not create a cliques or favorites. All students should be invited that meet a certain criterion. For example, Sunday night students, 11 graders, high schoolers, Sunday School class, all high school

b) Messaging

- i) Connecting with your small group students is encouraged.
- ii) Connecting with the parents of your students at least once a month is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.
- iii) Sponsors should NEVER text or contact a student of the opposite gender. If for some reason you need to reach a student of the opposite gender, contact their parent.