YOUTH MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION - WHAT IS YOUTH MINISTRY?

- Balancing ministry and fun - The key to a successful youth ministry program is finding an effective, yet safe way to reach kids today while still making it fun.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Activity Selection

- Think about safety .think about risk ..
- Good idea vs. bad idea
- Assess the risk - Is it necessary for a successful ministry?

Examples of what might be too risky:

- High Ropes Course
- White Water Rafting
- Rock Climbing/Rappelling
- Paintball
- Water Skiing
- Off-Road (Jet Skis, Snowmobiles, Dirt Bikes, ATV s)

When planning any activity, be sure to contact the (Arch) Diocese or your local Catholic Mutual Office prior to scheduling.

HOW DO WE ROLL?

TRANSPORTATION SELECTION

- Review (Arch) Diocesan Transportation Policy
- View *Church Transportation - Is it Necessary & Ministry Based?* online training.
- Preferred Methods
  - ⇒ Meet at location
  - ⇒ Wheels for hire
  - ⇒ Approved volunteer drivers
  - ⇒ Drivers should take *Be Smart-Drive Safe* online course

NEVER

- Allow anyone under the age of 21 to drive
- Permit unapproved drivers
- Use 11-15 passenger vans

Chaperone/Volunteer

A chaperone/volunteer must:

- Complete Safe Environment requirements
- Review CARES Chaperone Guidelines
- Be 21 years of age or older
- View *Youth Ministry: Everything Matters and Everyone Has a Role* online training
- Attend required meetings
- Know the activity
- Understand his/her responsibilities

Details, Details, Details

- Obtain contact information for parents
- Obtain Youth Ministry Registration Packet from each youth member
- Ensure (Arch) Diocese reviews any contract/agreement associated with activity
- Make an advance visit to off-site activity location to help foresee any potential risks
- Create plan of action for potential emergencies
- Obtain Parent Permission Slips and Adult Chaperone Liability Waivers
- Obtain Volunteer Driver Form

PARENTS IN THE LOOP

Parents must

- Know activity
- Know transportation mode
- Know destination
- Know timeframe
- Have read/signed all forms

Parents should:

- Attend planning meetings
- View *Youth Ministry: Everything Matters and Everyone Has a Role* online training
- Be involved

GET THE WORD OUT

- Communication (text, blogs, email, social networking, etc.) must be
  - → Appropriate
  - → Monitored
- Communication from Youth Ministers should:
  - → Be open & transparent
  - → Be sent to *all* youth (i.e. text, blog, email, etc.)
  - → Include copy to parents
  - → **NOT** be done privately with an individual youth
- If a social network site is established for Youth Ministry, it must be monitored on a regular basis. Any inappropriate material should be deleted immediately.

WWJD?

- Code of Conduct - covenant between all participants and the Church to agree to behave appropriately and safely
- View *Youth Ministry: Everyone Matters and Everyone Has a Role* online training

Catholic Mutual Group
10843 Old Mill Road
Omaha, NE 68154
Phone: (800)-228-6108
Fax: (402)-551-2943
Email: rm@catholicmutual.org