



VINEYARD STUDENT RETREAT

Dear Parents,

Enclosed are a few pages of helpful information as you and your student get ready for the Vineyard Student Retreat. As well as a release form to fill out and return.

We are taking the safety and protection of our students and our volunteers very seriously. We've worked hard to balance the fun, high-energy games and activities with the serious, spiritual topics; all of which rest on a framework that helps protect everyone involved in our weekend retreat.

In the following pages, you'll find our Code of Conduct, Campers' Rights, release form, as well as the traditional What to Expect sheet. Please review these with your student—you know your child better than anyone—and help us educate your student on what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior for everyone participating in our Vineyard Student weekend retreat.

The Vineyard Student Retreat will be full of games and outdoor activities to grow closer together as a group, with morning devotions and evening services to create an atmosphere for students to hear from the Lord. Our goal is to help students understand that God has created each us with a purpose, and called us to be holy people—set apart from this world.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jacob Hall

Preteen Pastor | Vineyard Church | 417-522-5756 | jacob.hall@vineyardchurch.us

Sam McGhee

Associate Pastor | Vineyard Church | 865-384-2245 | sam.mcghee@vineyardchurch.us

VINEYARD STUDENT RETREAT

CODE OF CONDUCT

Always respect other Students' physical boundaries:

- No guys are allowed in the girls lodging area, and no girls are allowed in the guys lodging area.
- No PDA, kissing, “making out”, or intimate touching
- No sharing of shower or bathroom stalls
- Everyone sleeps in his/her own bed
- No hitting, kicking, slapping, or punching
- No physically demeaning humor (wedgies, etc.)
- Always use appropriate communication
 - Tell the truth
 - Be clear
 - Don't be a gossip
 - No profane, “locker room”, or “bathroom” language

The following behaviors have no place at our weekend retreat:

- Use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, or any illicit drugs
- Any sexual behavior
- Stealing or lying
- Profanity or other inappropriate language or conversation
- Disrespectful attitudes
- Skipping events
- Bullying

Any display of the above behaviors will be addressed respectfully, but firmly, out of care and concern for the well-being of all students.

Volunteer/Staff are given the same Code of Conduct, with the following items specific to them:

- No student is ever to be taken off by themselves, out of sight of a public setting.
- Do not give gifts of a personal nature to students
- Do not show favoritism to a particular student
- One-on-one counseling or private conversation is always to be done in a public setting where they can be seen, though not necessarily heard
- Hold other staff/volunteers accountable

STUDENT'S RIGHTS

- To have privacy when in private areas (Bathrooms, shower, cabins)
- To tell someone when they're feeling uneasy about ANY situation
- To be treated with respect
- To be taken seriously

DISCIPLINARY POLICY SUMMARY

All disciplinary situations are to be handled by Vineyard Church Staff, pastors or pastors' spouses who each have experience in ministry. In no circumstance is corporal punishment allowed. In a disciplinary situation, the staff are to:

1. Remove the individual from the situation, following the above guidelines for one-on-ones.
2. Communicate care, love, and concern for them.
3. Define the inappropriate behavior without attacking their character.
4. Communicate lack of tolerance for the behavior, explain the reasoning.
5. Partner with them in helping them change the behavior.
6. Seek the root of the problem.
7. Administer consequences with the help of the other staff members. These can include removal from activities around the campgrounds, or even dismissal from the retreat. Again, corporal punishment is not allowed in any circumstance.
8. Spend time extending grace and forgiveness, and work to restore the relationship.

We do reserve the right to dismiss students and volunteers from the retreat in extreme situations, as a last resort. In the unlikely event that becomes necessary, we will work with you and your group's leader to make arrangements.

Again, if you have any questions about any of the above policies, contact us at jacob.hall@vineyardchurch.us or sam.mcghee@vineyardchurch.us We are excited about our weekend retreat and we can't wait to see everyone this fall!

WHAT TO BRING

Be sure to bring plenty of clothes, including ones you don't mind getting messy in. It is a campground so there's a few messy things to get involved in.

Other Necessities:

- Some cash for snacks
- Toiletries (Especially deodorant, dudes. Seriously.)
- Towels, washcloths
- Linens or sleeping bag, pillow
- Bible
- Notebook
- Pens or pencils
- Flashlight
- Bug Spray
- Medications (if needed)
 - Prescription medication and over-the-counter medication must be in the original container, not a "Pill Box" or other storage. Medications should be sent in a Ziploc bag with the student's name on it and schedule of medication included. Epi-Pens and inhalers should be labeled with the student's name.

- These bags will be taken up at check-in, and your group leaders will be sure to get what you need. That way, you don't have to worry about losing anything.

Things NOT to Bring:

- MP3, CD, iPods (or 8-track) players. Or record players, hipsters.
- Portable video games.
- DVD players, or other electronic distractions. You get the idea.
- Weapons or drugs. See above for info on prescription medications.

What about Phones?

It's best if all cell phones stay home! If a student is caught with their phone it will be confiscated and kept securely in the campground office for the weekend, and returned to their group leader at the end of the retreat.

Our retreat is about getting away from distractions, taking a break from social media, games, and messaging. It's a time to decompress and focus.

That being said, we want to be sure parents are able to get in touch with their students (and vice versa) if something comes up. You can call Jacob or Sam's cell phones: *Jacob* 417-522-5756 *Sam* 865-3842245. If you don't catch one of us, leave a message with us or with *Harmony Family Center at Montvale* 865-981-3953. We will definitely get your message and address it appropriately (and quickly).

Of course, if your student needs to get in touch with you for something important, we will give them the opportunity to contact you. If you have any questions, you can email us or call us at the numbers above.



Vineyard Church Youth

2017 Parental Release Form

I hereby give permission to the Vineyard Church Youth Staff & Volunteer to transport my child in their vehicles during youth events/activities in the year 2017. I also give permission for emergency medical treatment to be administered to my child, and for medical treatment decisions to be made by the youth leaders in the unlikely event of an accident. I understand that attempts will be made to contact me in the event of an emergency. I also hold harmless the Vineyard Youth Volunteers and Staff involved in this event.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent(s) Phone #: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical Insurance Provider: _____ ID/group #: _____

Medications (name/dosage/schedule): _____

Special needs/circumstances: _____

Emergency Contact
(name/phone/relationship): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Photo Permission

I give the staff and volunteers of the Vineyard Church permission to take and post pictures of my child listed above on the church's website, Facebook pages, slides shows, photo albums, bulletin boards, etc. in a way the church deems appropriate.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____