



YOUTH SPONSORS

Welcome!

Thank you for volunteering to work within a very unique and special ministry! By volunteering, you are taking a very important role in the life of the young people of our church and in the entire congregation. This ministry encourages our youth to grow in Christ and learn to become an integral and responsible member of the Church Family and society as a whole (while enjoying fun and fellowship along the way!)

Here are a few expectations of our Youth Sponsors:

- 1) Youth Sponsors will agree to a background check, which an outside company contracted by First United Methodist Church of Cañon City performs.
- 2) The age of the Youth Sponsor will be no less than five years older than the people with whom (s)he works and never younger than 19 years of age.
- 3) There should never be only one adult present with the youth.
- 4) One-on-one discussions or counseling should be held only with the doors open or in a public place.
- 5) Youth sponsors should always report suspicion of abuse to the Youth Leader or any other incident in which the youth may have been harmed or is in danger of harming himself/herself or someone else.
- 6) At no time will a romantic relationship between a sponsor and a youth be acceptable.
- 7) While special bonds do form between Youth Sponsors and the youth they work with, the Youth Sponsor should understand that it is important to be a strong and dependable adult and mentor. The Youth Sponsor should always present themselves as an adult.
- 8) If the Youth Sponsor is transporting any youth in a vehicle, it is expected that the Youth Sponsor be a licensed driver with current vehicle liability insurance. All traffic laws and safety rules will be followed at all times.
- 9) If on an overnight outing, adults and youth will NEVER sleep in the same bed, unless they are related and an adult sponsor will never be housed alone with a youth.
- 10) It is expected that if there are personal crises within the life of the Youth Sponsor, the Youth Sponsor will make the Youth Leader aware that those

issues exist. Personal issues should never be brought to the attention of or discussed with the youth under your care.

- 11) The Youth Sponsor is expected to immediately go to the Youth Leader to express any concerns or issues that the Sponsor has with the Leader. Open communication is the key to a successful youth program.

Here is what you can expect from the Youth Leader:

- 1) The Youth Leader will keep in contact with the Youth Sponsors and keep them updated on upcoming events, and any changes or problems within the Youth Program. Communication should be ongoing, not just at gathering times for the Youth, recognizing that the time of the Youth Sponsor is a precious commodity.
- 2) The Youth Leader will provide contact information so that the Youth Sponsor is able to contact the Youth Leader in a timely fashion.
- 3) The Youth Leader will ensure a safe and nurturing environment, not only for the Youth under their care, but for the Adult Sponsors as well. The Youth Leader should be recognized as a spiritual leader and mentor for ALL people in his/her ministry. The Youth Leader should portray a sense of openness and approachability to all under his/her ministry.
- 4) The Youth Leader will keep all private issues of the Youth, Youth Sponsors, and family members in strict confidence, except in the event that there is a safety or legal issue. The protection of the Youth in the care of the ministry is first and foremost!

I, _____, agree to the above conditions and expectations.
NAME

I further agree to be a strong and reliable leader to the Youth with whom I will be working.

Sponsor Signature _____

Leader Signature _____