
Adult Sponsor Expectations

We value adult sponsors who give their time and energy to assist and provide a space for youth to meet God. The following is a list of expectations for adult sponsors attending events at FPC Tyler. Please refer to this list as the basis for your participation as an adult sponsor.

Main Roles for Adult Sponsors

- Interact with the youth and adults during events or gatherings.
- Keep the covenant and hold students accountable
- Provide adult leadership, security, and a responsible presence

Rule of Three

First Presbyterian Church of Tyler (FPC Tyler) has a zero tolerance policy regarding child abuse (including but not limited to physical, emotional or sexual abuse). All adult sponsors must also abide by the rule of three (2 youth and 1 adult OR 2 unrelated adults and 1 youth) to ensure safety for all participants. No adult shall be left alone with a minor. A reasonable ratio of adult sponsors will be maintained in each situation involving the supervision of minors.

Participate Fully

Adults are expected to attend and participate in **all** event activities. When adults sit on the sideline, uninvolved, youth get the signal that this behavior is okay. Please participate **fully** in your assigned event or gathering, as you are able.

Stay with the Group

Adults covenant with FPC Tyler and student participants to stay with the group. At no time are youth or adults permitted to leave the group. The only exceptions are scheduled off-campus group activities or in the event of an emergency. Adult sponsors should immediately notify the FPC Tyler Director of Student Ministry of an emergency.

Support the Leaders

Throughout the event, check in and coordinate with the event leader. They may have things you can do to help.

Be the Adult

We encourage adult sponsors to have fun, but at the same time remember that you **are** an adult. Adults are expected to lead by example and reorient others who are not following the event covenant. Each adult is responsible to help with the **behavior of all youth**. If you see something that should not be happening, please step in.

Love Them All

If you are a parent of a youth attendee, your challenge is to treat your child as if they were someone else's kid. Be free **not** to be a parent to your child during this event. Give them the same respect and

courtesy you give to every other youth at the event. We recommend instead of seeking out your child, let them seek you out. It's amazing how much you can learn about your child from a distance.

Acceptable vs. Unacceptable Physical Touch

There will be in times when our youth will cross the physical boundary. We want to outline what physical touch is acceptable vs. unacceptable.

Acceptable	Unacceptable
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High fives• Fist bumps• Side hugs• Front hugs (IF the child approaches you)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any touching of the breasts or bottom area• Massages (either student of adult or adult of student)

Social Media and Texting

If a child chooses to friend/follow you on a social media account, this is okay, as long as the child initiates that. This does not mean that you have to accept or allow that. Please be aware of what you share and say if you choose to befriend/follow our students on social media. Any communication with a student on social media or texting should be public or in a group, not one-to-one, unless you have the explicit consent of that child's parent or caregiver.

Each participant, youth and adult, is a child of God, no matter how obnoxious, disruptive, silly, timid, or hyper they may be. God loves them—so can we. Enjoy the event, treating everyone as you would treat Christ by showing respect, sharing love, and practicing hospitality.