

# St. Angela Merici Parish

## VOLUNTEER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR ADULTS WHO WORK WITH YOUTH

Our young people are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this Volunteer's Code of Conduct as a condition of my providing services to the children or youth of St. Angela Merici Parish.

As a volunteer, **I will**:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Avoid \*situations where I am alone with children and/or youth while serving as a volunteer.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition, or comparison when working with children and/or youth.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the pastor or administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to children and/or youth or their parents without prior written approval from the parents or guardian and the pastor or administrator.
- Report suspected abuse to the pastor, administrator, or appropriate supervisor and the local Child Protection Services agency. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

As a volunteer, **I will not**:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of children and/or youth.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess, or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to children and/or youth (i.e. no fevers or other contagious situations).
- Strike, spank, shake, or slap children and/or youth.
- Touch a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates children and/or youth.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth.

I understand that as a volunteer working with children and/or youth, I am subject to a thorough background check including criminal history. I understand that any action inconsistent with this Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal as a volunteer with children and/or youth.

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**Volunteer's Signature**

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**Date**

*\*These situations may include: teaching, counseling, transportation of minors, sports practices or events, youth group activities, etc. Every effort should be made to avoid being alone with children and/or youth in any closed building or room. If there is no window in the door of the room where an adult is volunteering with children, then the door must be left open. Minors should not be allowed alone in the personal living quarters of an adult leader, at any time.*

(This document has been adapted from the Virtus Volunteer's Code of Conduct)