



Student Manual

The Edge Student Ministry **Vision Statement**

The EDGE student ministry will provide a safe place for students to come and worship God. Here at the EDGE student ministry we will make it our first priority to love God with everything within us, and provide a place for students to worship freely and build relationships with one another. The EDGE student ministry will be an example, a light, and the salt of the earth to show the love of Jesus Christ to our lost friends and community. It is through Christ reigning in our life that we may accomplish the great commission.

*We believe that Jesus Christ was crucified for our sins and on the third day He rose from the dead.

*We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues.

*We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible word from God.

Dear Student:

I would like to take this time to welcome you to the EDGE student ministry. At the EDGE student ministry it is my goal as well as the leader's goal to provide you with a safe place to hang out, worship, strengthen, and to grow in your relationship with God. Mrs. Jeania and I are proud to serve you as your student pastors at the EDGE. I pray that through this ministry you will create life-long friendships and most importantly create a relationship with God that you will live out for the rest of your life. I encourage you to please read through this manual as it has guidelines for our ministry group. These aren't just rules, if you read this manual you will also find out that you are entitled to free stuff.

Pastor Jared

Student Safety Policy

Abuse Tolerance –

The EDGE youth ministry has a **zero tolerance for abuse** in ministry programs and ministry activities. It is the responsibility of leaders in the EDGE youth ministry to act in the best interest of students in every program.

In the event that a student observes any inappropriate behaviors (i.e. policy violations, neglectful supervision, poor role-modeling, etc.) or suspected abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) it is their personal responsibility to immediately report their observations to the Youth Pastor, Youth Pastors wife, or the Senior Pastor.

Reporting Violation of Policy –

In order to maintain a safe environment, all students are asked to report any questionable circumstance, observation, act, omission, or situation that is a violation of these policies. All questions or concerns related to inappropriate, suspicious behavior should be directed immediately to the Youth Pastor, Youth Pastors wife or the Senior Pastor.

Consequences of Violation –

Any student accused of committing a prohibited act or any act considered by the church to be harmful to another student will be immediately suspended from participation in the youth event. This suspension will continue during any investigation by the student pastor and/or by law enforcement if situation requires it.

Building Safety –

No student will ever be left unattended or unsupervised during youth ministry programming, events, fundraisers, meetings, or services. Students are prohibited from being alone with another individual student in any room or building. In the event a student finds himself/herself alone with another student, they both will seek a room or building occupied by others, or to a location easily observed by others.

Service Rules and Guidelines

Student services are as follows: Wednesday night @ 7:00 p.m-8:30 p.m., First Friday of the month is Middle School night from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., and Third Friday of the month is High School night from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. The youth building will be open 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday night for games and snacks before service.

Times of teaching and worship are primary in church life. Those who come to church in order to learn and grow deserve to study and worship in an atmosphere where that is possible without hindrance. If a student compromises that atmosphere by inappropriate behavior, the student will be reprimanded and warned that their behavior warrants dismissal from service if it continues. If behavior continues, the student will be escorted by a student worker to guardian, if present, or responsible adults. Generally, this will mean spending the remainder of the time under adult supervision.

All games and snacks will be finished by 7:15 p.m. on service nights to be prepared for service. There will be time before and after the service for games and snacks.

Electronic Devices

Wireless internet will be accessible for use with your iPods, tablets, etc. This will be used under strict guidelines. Any use of an electronic device other than looking something up at the request of the student pastor during worship or during the message is strictly prohibited. This will be closely monitored by the leaders, the 1st offense is a warning, 2nd offense will require the device to be placed in jail, 3rd offense a meeting between the student, parent, and student pastor will be arranged.

If at any time an electronic device is caught being used inappropriately (i.e. watching inappropriate videos, suggestive material including explicit language or pictures) it will immediately be confiscated and the student pastor will have a meeting with the student.

Weapons

The physical safety of the youth group is one of our top priorities. Therefore, no student may possess a weapon at any activity at the church or away. The presence of a dangerous weapon will result in an immediate confiscation and a call to the parent or guardian, and proper authorities.

In the meantime, the student pastor or leader in charge will coordinate a plan with other leaders to best protect the safety of the students present. This is a zero tolerance policy!

Event Rules and Guidelines

The church assumes a great deal of responsibility when taking students out of town. For the youth group to function well out of the city, obeying and respecting leaders and chaperones is essential. A serious breakdown in these areas will result in the student returning home to parents. Parents must agree to support sponsors' decisions about sending a youth home, knowing that only those present on the trip can know all the variables involved. On all activities, being sent home will be the normal result of illegal or immoral behavior or serious failure of guidelines

The EDGE student ministry schedules several events each year. You are encouraged to participate as much as you can. The student ministry organizes different fundraisers to pay for these events or to lower the price of the event significantly. If you sign up to participate in a scheduled event and you do not participate (outside of the scope of an emergency, i.e. I'm going to my friends house) you will be responsible for the individual cost. Each event we participate in we represent the EDGE student ministry and also First Assembly of God, so we need to act in a manner that would honor God.

Respect Toward Leaders

Students who choose to participate at the EDGE student activities agree to follow the instructions of leaders. Obeying those instructions and exhibiting respect toward leaders is a condition for remaining at an activity.

Physical Affection

Although not prohibited it is my recommendation that we do not have boyfriends and girlfriends inside of the group because it usually causes more of a hindrance than anything. Public or private displays of affection are strictly prohibited. Students are not allowed in rooms of students of the opposite sex without proper supervision.

Appropriate Attire

The attire of all persons involved in the Student Ministry is important to the witness and reputation of Jesus Christ and the EDGE. All participants in the Student Ministry activities and events, both on campus and away, are expected to dress in appropriate, modest attire. If someone is wearing clothing that is deemed to be inappropriate by the Student Ministry leadership, they will be asked to change (when possible or given a cover up) and to not wear that type of clothing again. When students and leaders will be assisting in leading in church worship services, all are requested to be particularly sensitive to this area.

Student Code of Conduct

As a participant at the EDGE student ministry, I will adhere to the following:

- I will respect myself, other people, other people's property, and the church property.
- I will be an encourager, not one who ridicules, makes fun of, or criticizes.
- I will deal peacefully with anger and disagreements.
- I will participate and contribute in a positive way in all group activities and obey the instructions of the student ministry staff.
- During services and Bible studies I will show respect by not causing disruptions and not talking unless called on to respond.
- I will use language that reflects a Christian attitude. I will not use curse words or other foul language.
- I will maintain my witness by keeping my hands to myself: no tickling, wrestling, piggyback rides or inappropriate touching (which means: do not touch anyone anywhere that a bathing suit would cover). In addition, physical displays of affection such as kissing, full body hugs, sitting on laps, and lying or sleeping next to each other are inappropriate and being isolated or alone with another student is not allowed.
- I will wear modest clothing. No clothing that is sexually suggestive or spiritually degrading. T-shirts or other clothing with evil, vulgar, illegal, or inappropriate content will not be permitted. In addition there should be: no midriffs, no low-cut tops, no spaghetti straps (tank tops must have a strap width of at least two fingers), no see through clothing, and no sagging pants (no boxers or underwear showing). Dress shorts or jean shorts must have at least a 4 inch inseam, and athletic shorts must be properly fitting with an inseam of at least 2.5 inches (not rolled up). Ladies are required to wear modest one piece bathing suits or modest tankinis. Guys—no Speedos.
- I will not use cell phones, iPods, cameras or other personal electronic or entertainment devices during services.
- I will stay with the group at all times. For example, if we are having a meeting in the youth center, I will not leave the youth center
- I will not leave any activity, service, or trip before its published ending time without approval from a parent or guardian "in person" or by phone.
- I understand that teen drivers are not allowed to carry other teen passengers to a youth ministry meeting, activity, or trip without prior written consent from a parent or guardian. Sibling passengers are at the discretion of the parents and do not require written consent. Teen drivers are not allowed to drive along with or behind the group on youth trips.

Student Signature

I have received and read a copy of the EDGE student ministry policies and procedures manual and understand the importance of the matters set forth within the manual. I agree to follow and abide by these guidelines at the EDGE student ministries.

I further understand that the manual may be modified at any time, and that any guidelines may be amended, revised, or eliminated at any time by the student pastor at the EDGE student ministry.

I also acknowledge that I have reviewed and agree to abide by the rules and responsibilities listed in this manual.

Finally I understand that it is my responsibility to review new guidelines that are created and distributed as well as manual guidelines that are changed or deleted.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the student manual.

Student name (Please Print)

Student Signature

Date