

# YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR MINORS

## STAFF & VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

The University System of Georgia (USG) is committed to the safety and well-being of minors. Authorized staff and volunteers should be positive role models and treat others with respect, courtesy and dignity. Authorized staff and volunteers must abide by all USG policies and state and federal law.

As an authorized staff or volunteer working in programs for minors, I hereby agree as follows:

- I will maintain appropriate physical boundaries at all times.
- I will immediately report any reasonable suspicion or knowledge of abuse of a minor to the institution police department and the appropriate supervisor or program director who can take immediate action.
- I will not touch or speak to a minor in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- If one-on-one interaction is required it will take place in an open, well-illuminated space where I am observable by other volunteers or program staff.
- I will not meet with minors outside of established program locations or outside of established times.
- I will not invite minors to my home or other private location or accept their invitations for the same.
- I will not make sexual comments, tell sexual jokes or allow minors to access sexually explicit materials.
- I will not engage or allow minors to engage me in romantic or sexual conversations.
- I will not engage in private communications with minors to include communications via text messaging, e-mail, phone, internet chat, on-line games or other forms of social media.
- I will not accept or give gifts to minors without the knowledge of their parents or guardians.
- I will not inflict any physical or emotional abuse on minors to include, but not limited to striking, humiliating, ridiculing, or degrading minors.
- I will not use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time while working with minors.
- I will not provide or knowingly allow minors to possess or consume alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
- I will not use profanity, vulgarity, or harassing language in the presence of minors at any time.
- I will not provide transportation to minors unless doing so is an acknowledged component of the program. When transporting minors, more than one volunteer or program staff must be present in the vehicle, except when multiple children/teens will be in the vehicle at all times through the transportation.

My signature confirms that I have read and understand this Code of Conduct. My signature further confirms that I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. Failure to abide by this Code of Conduct may result in sanctions against me, including but not limited to, termination and/or criminal prosecution.

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Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Sponsoring Department