

LEADER CONDUCT + EXPECTATIONS

At Forest Grove Community Church, we desire to have passionate and committed volunteers who realize that working in youth ministry is a privilege. Because we are working with students who are developing their faith, worldview, and life practices, we ask that you consider how your life will influence theirs as they pay attention to the way you live. Here are some of the things we expect if you commit to this team:

life conduct

- Be a committed follower of Jesus, living your life in a way that is evident of an active relationship with Him.
- Engage with spiritual practices that draw you closer to Jesus (ex. prayer, Scripture reading, etc.)
- Seek to be obedient to the instructions of Jesus in Scripture.
- Live teachably. We expect that leaders would be willing to have accountability conversations about their life and faith.
- Live an exemplary life. Since we work with youth who are forming their own worldview and are learning to make decisions on many things, we expect that GroveYouth Leaders would value and embody the following things:
 - **Being a person of integrity**
 - We expect that leaders would seek to be living in right standing with the law and their community, living trustworthy lives that are honest and just.
 - **Love others**
 - We expect that leaders would seek to live in kindness, compassion, and fairness with others and be caring in their thoughts, words, and actions in their digital worlds and real life.
 - **Healthy friendships**
 - We expect that leaders live in friendships that model the body of Christ we are invited into when we follow Jesus; a body that forgives and elevates one another. We expect that you work towards having relationships free from gossip and are marked by being welcoming, generous and also embrace healthy conflict resolution.
 - **Healthy expressions of sexuality and dating relationships**
 - Our Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith expresses that marriage and our sexuality is “a covenant relationship intended to unite a man and a woman for life. At creation, God designed marriage for companionship, sexual union, and the birth and nurture of children. Sexual intimacy rightfully takes place only within marriage.” We expect that leaders will reflect these beliefs and live out their expressions of dating relationships and sexuality in a way that honours God, themselves, and others. We expect that these expressions will be free of abuse, objectification, and will be marked by integrity and respect.
 - **Limited but responsible interactions with alcohol**
 - We expect that leaders of legal drinking age would interact with alcohol in responsible ways that set an example to other students/leaders and also honours God and themselves (Ex. Not getting drunk). We ask that leaders refrain from the use of marijuana. We expect that leaders will act in ways that are legal, responsible, and that they would discern these actions with other believers if helpful.
- If you think there is a situation in your previous or current personal life that may be an issue for our youth, a parent/caregiver, or someone in our church, please discuss this with the youth ministry staff and we will support and guide you in next steps.

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what happens if life conduct expectations are not met?

We are all works in progress and there may be times when that work is more evident than others. Because we want to be a caring community that also sets an example for our students, we invite you to consider these things:

- If you find yourself struggling to embody these expectations after you have committed to the team, we invite you to connect with your ministry staff to discuss the situation and discern next steps.
- If you cannot embody these values and expectations, we will consider having you serve in a way that does not place you in a prominent place of leadership.
- If a situation is brought to our attention where these expectations are not being embodied, we will pursue conversations with involved parties and listen, pray, and discern next steps. There may be a period of time where a leader needs to step away from serving while this happens.
- If it is no longer healthy to serve as a GroveYouth Leader, ministry staff will help create a plan for what it looks like to step away from the program and be supported while you process.

expectations on program nights

- Turn on all notifications for Slack (see communication section for more information).
- Read all communication prior to program nights to understand what is going on and how you can prepare and participate.
- Arrive on time for leader meetings/suppers and participate until clean up/debrief is done unless otherwise discussed with the youth ministry staff.
- Treat anyone who is filling in for youth ministry staff, or taking a prominent leadership role with equal respect.
- Abide by the Safe Place Policy guidelines set out by our church.
- Help out wherever you see a need.
- Participate in all program and relational elements as outlined.

expectations outside of program nights

- Attend leadership training times.
- Attend Forest Grove Community Church or another local church on a regular basis.
- Strive to engage in relational connections which abide by our Safe Place Policy with students outside of program nights.
- Be in regular communication with parents/caregivers of small group students (if applicable).
- Work for unity within our team—working out conflicts with humility and maturity.
- Do not participate with a GroveYouth minor in any activity that is illegal for them (ex. drinking, smoking, etc.).