

## **Participation Guidelines: 2016-2017**

Augustana values our ministry to youth and families, which includes events and programs that support the fellowship, outreach and spiritual growth of our members. To facilitate this programming, the following guidelines have been developed for all participants.

### **Background**

The Youth and Family Ministry (YFM) program is given direction by the YFM Committee, which is a standing committee of the Augustana Church Council. Specific programming and coordination is the responsibility of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry. Numerous other groups representing youth, parents, families and the congregation as a whole, contribute to the programming offered through YFM.

### **Guidelines**

**Personal Behavior:** All participants are expected to behave in a manner that shows respect for God, for self, for other persons, and for the property of all.

**Adult Presence at Youth Events:** The target adult-to-youth ratio at any overnight youth event is one to seven. Both male and female chaperones will be provided unless a group is of only one gender. Adults interested in chaperoning YFM events should contact the Director of Youth and Family Ministries. As standard practice, a background check is completed for all adults who work with young people at Augustana.

**Visitors/Friends:** We recognize that outreach is central to the overall mission of the church, therefore visitors and friends are welcome at YFM programs. Visitors and friends are expected to exhibit the same respectful personal behavior and complete the same medical treatment and permission forms required of Augustana members.

**Transportation:** Transportation to all YFM programs occurring off church property will be provided or arranged by the director of YFM or by designated adult chaperones. All drivers must have a valid driver's license and current automobile insurance. Any vehicles used will meet the minimum safety standards (i.e. seatbelts, lights, etc.) required by the State of Minnesota. Youth may be allowed to transport themselves to and from programs that are off church property only if granted permission by a parent or legal guardian.

**Alcohol, Illegal Substances and Weapons:** The possession or use of any illegal substance or weapon will not be tolerated. If a participant fails to meet these guidelines he/she is subject to immediate dismissal from that event. Attendance at future events will be granted by recommendation of the Director of YFM in consultation with the Youth and Family Ministry Committee. During out-of-state YFM events, appropriate disciplinary action will be subject to consultation with parent(s) or legal guardians and the senior pastor.

**Curfew and Lights Out:** All overnight events we attend will have established times for curfew/lights out. In most cases these are set by the hosting or sponsoring organization. In situations where this is not the case our guideline will be curfew (in your room, lights out) by midnight.

**Comments and Suggestions:** Ideas, comments and questions are welcome and encouraged.