

Guidelines:

Safety is a Value!

- Being safe is more important than being *nice*. Keeping people safe is a way to LOVE them.
- You and your friends safety is ALWAYS more important than people's inconvenience, embarrassment, or privacy.
- ALWAYS trust your gut.
 - It's ok to be rude, walk away, say no, tell an adult, ask for help, etc.
 - If you feel weird about a situation. You aren't overreacting, you're using your God given gift of instinct.

Warning Signs:

- Adults asking kids/youth for help
 - Adults should get help from adults, not young people they don't know.
- Adults giving gifts to young people, especially if they don't know them.
- Asking personal information or sharing a lot of personal information.
 - If they are oversharing, or seem like they are having a hard time, they should talk with Pastor Tim, not a kid/youth.
 - If you want to help them you can connect them with Eric/Allyssa and pray for them on your own.
- If You feel like you cant get out of a conversation (It's ok to just walk away, or say "I need to get downstairs," and leave.
- It's a warning sign if they ignore your boundaries. If you say, "no," or "I need to go," or "I can't help you" and they keep pushing, it is a warning sign. (even if they are being really friendly about it. Walk away, get to the youth room, or in the eyesight of a leader. Let a leader know if this happened, even if it feels like no big deal. (maybe you can handle situations by yourself, but maybe other youth/younger youth can't. So help the leaders keep an eye out to help them.)
- It's a warning sign if an adult you don't know if making it hard for you to get out of a conversation. Flag down a leader, or just walk away. Let a lead know if this happened, even if it doesn't seem like a big deal.
- Engaging in conversation away from other, outside, by a vehicle, "come over here".

Safety Plan:

- If you see a friend in a conversation with someone you don't know, give them an out, check in on them, get a leader, etc.
- If you or someone feels unsafe or uncomfortable around a stranger, tell an adult immediately.
- Do not hang outside. Stay inside until you know your ride is here and pulled up to the door.
- Go to your car with one or two other people. Never go to your car alone.
- Before you leave the building, have your keys ready and in your hand.
- Always be looking up and around when walking out to your car. Don't be on your cell phone.
- Once you are in your car, leave right away or make sure your doors are locked.
- Make sure the person that you walked out with is oaky and in their car and ready to leave when you leave.

A couple sentences to have ready to leave and get friends out

- “Hey they need you for dodgeball”
- “Eric is looking for you,”
- “I told so and so I’d help them in the student center.”

A lot of people come to our church and we love it, but some people don’t know how to be safe/respectful/appropriate around youth and others. So it might not be because you can’t handle it, because they might not be able to.

You help them and keep other youth safe by following these guidelines and letting a leader know if anyone is crossing some of these lines.