

Children and Youth Ministry Guidelines

The vision of the First Baptist Church of Runnelstown for its Children and Youth Ministry is to mentor and equip our children and teens to develop a faith that exists outside of the church building; a walk with Christ that is dynamic, lived out, and shared beyond these four walls.

Romans 12:1—*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

God has blessed First Baptist Church of Runnelstown with a vibrant children's and youth department that is growing. We understand that this is the future of our church and that we need to invest in this future. The purpose of these guidelines is to help clear up any confusion of what our church expects from everyone involved in these ministries, what our leaders and students can expect from us and to promote spiritual growth.

Trips and Activities Away from the Church:

- When church provided transportation is used to go to an activity, everyone will travel the same way to and from the event unless prior arrangements are made with their leaders.
- Camps and retreats:
 - The church will provide for mature chaperones to attend the camp who are active members of the church body.
 - The pastor will approve a list of chaperones and alternates provided by the leaders for each camp and inform the church body.
 - All children and/or youth must provide their own deposit for camp, in the form of check or cash, given within the guidelines set by their leaders.
 - If the student is unable to pay their own deposit their leader can ask for sponsors from the church family.
 - No firm reservations are to be made for a student who has not made a deposit.
 - The remainder of the camp/retreat fees will be shared equally between FBC Runnelstown and the student wanting to go on the trip.
 - Students can raise their money through fundraising activities.
 - Students (or their parents) can pay their fee.
 - Camps/retreats are provided for the students who are members or regularly attend FBC Runnelstown.
 - The church defers to our youth minister and/or children's director to define what is considered “regular attendee” in conference with the pastor.
 - Any discrepancy or disagreement will be handled through the mission team.
 - If a student is a member or attends another church but would like to attend camp with our students they must provide their full camp/retreat fee and deposit from

their own pocket.

- Any refunds for deposits or money paid toward camp by a student or by someone on behalf of a student will be in accordance with the camp guidelines.
- Discipline:
 - On the slim occasion that we might have disruptive behavior we cannot allow it to detract from our time together and our focus on Christ. Disruptive behavior will result in the following progressive consequences:
 - **First Occurrence:** Student will have a private discussion with their leaders that should resolve the problem and the student may return to their activity.
 - **Second Occurrence:** The student will be required to notify their parent of their behavior as expediently as possible, preferably on the same day as occurrence. The issue will be resolved between the student, parents and leader prior to the student returning to any activity.
 - **Third Occurrence:** The student will be sent home at their own expense.

Leadership:

- Have at least one leader for every seven students in our group.
- All leaders should labor together with the same goal of training our young people to become better disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - Our students should see unity among all of our leaders.
 - If there is a problem between leaders, do not discuss it in front of the students.
 - All problems between leaders will be addressed by the Children's Director or Youth Minister in consultation with the pastor and their decision will be final.
- Leaders are not to counsel with students of the opposite sex alone.
- All counseling should be done in a public area.