

ALABAMA NORTH NYI POLICY & PROCEDURES

We have developed certain guidelines over the years that will allow students to have fun, glorify God and maintain safety while participating in our district sponsored events. Though we know that the local church may have stricter or more lenient guidelines, we ask that everyone adhere to those listed below for district events to avoid confusion, with an understanding that there will be “event specific” boundaries and guidelines as well.

STUDENT SECTION

Student covenant:

- to respect/obey all adult sponsors, leaders, staff, etc. (not limited to your local church)
- to treat other students with kindness and consideration, and to avoid behaviors that will be a hindrance to God’s work
- to abide by the guidelines set in place by this handbook
- to abide by all event specific guidelines and boundaries set by event leadership
- to adhere to the schedule of activities (be where you’re supposed to be when you’re supposed to be there)
- to keep PDA limited to holding hands
- to avoid inappropriate behavior at ALL times that might cause those around you to be “uncomfortable”
- to have a current medical release on file in case of emergencies (Failure to do so will negate participation in district events)
- to leave all pets at home

This is our dress code. If a student violates this code, he/she will be asked to change into appropriate attire. Please, no...

- baggy pants/low cut pants that show underwear
- revealing swimsuits (ie. Bikinis, speedos, etc.)
- sleepwear outside of your sleeping quarters
- tank tops that are less than 2 fingers width on the strap
- shorts and skirts that are shorter than fingertip length (including the split)
- strapless anything
- shirtless guys outside of sleeping quarters or swim areas

It is understood that repeated failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in consequences that may include a trip home early at parents’ expense. However, there are certain offenses that will expedite the trip...

- possession of any of the following:
 - Illegal drugs (or paraphernalia)
 - Alcohol
 - Tobacco (or paraphernalia)
 - Firearms
 - Fireworks (or any other type of explosives)
- sneaking out after set curfews
- having a member of the opposite sex in sleeping quarters
- participating in immoral conduct
- destroying property or destructive pranks

Electronic Devices...

◦ Many of our events tend to include long distance travel. Due to this fact, we understand that electronic devices (ie. Phones, mp3 players, portable games, etc.) are a way to pass the time. However, we encourage every leader to discourage the use of these while at the events except in emergencies (calling parents). They are proven distractions to what God might like to say or do in the life of our students.

ADULT SECTION

- be of age 19 or older, one year removed from High School and approved by his/her local church.
- be in a vibrant, active relationship with Christ. If we aren't, the students will know it.
- be the adults. Be empowered to hold students accountable to schedules and guidelines and lead by example.
- be flexible. There may be an area we need your help in due to unforeseen circumstances.
- be visible. Students need to see you involved with what is going on. There will be times you can "disappear," but interact with students (not just your own) as much as possible.
- be patient. We are dealing with students who bring "baggage" with them to our events, with pre-conceived notions of what is acceptable and what is not. Also, be patient with the event leaders as they attempt to lead well through unexpected situations.
- be humble and transparent. We are not perfect and are not expected to be. Students need to know that we, too, are human and therefore struggle.
- be in prayer. This is vital before, during and after every event. Praying with and for our students is vital.
- be filled. As much as our events are geared toward reaching students, we have seen how God works in the lives of our adults at our events as well.
- be safe. Students tend to have an "I'm invincible" mentality. Be watchful at the events and discourage "invincible" activities that they may try to participate in.
- be encouraging. If something is not going well during an event, help to be positive, especially with the students. Encourage them to have fun, interact, be open and think positively.
- refrain from being alone with a student. Always attempt to be in a highly visible location.
- communicate. At the many events we have, it is vital that we communicate with each other about the where's, the when's, the how's and the why's to avoid the pitfalls that can break down the team. If there are questions or concerns, communicate with the appropriate individuals, and do not share sensitive information or problems in front of the students.
- be conscious of God's direction when dealing with students. Our sensitivity to the Spirit may make the difference in how receptive a student is to God's voice.
- ensure that the District Office has a current background check on file when participating in district events. These are only good for two years.
- adhere to the Alabama North NYI Policies and Procedures at all times.
- be a participating member in good standing with a local Church of the Nazarene.

STUDENT TO ADULT LEADER RATIO (8:1)

- Each church is responsible for a student to adult leader ratio of at least 8:1 and at least one male and one female unless the whole group is of one gender.
- If a church cannot meet this ratio, it is the responsibility of the local church to notify event leadership. Event leadership will make a diligent effort to immediately bring student to adult leader ratios into compliance with this policy.
- The event director cannot be included in his or her church's Student to Adult Leader Ratio.