

## How Safe Is Your Youth Ministry?

Youth Leaders: Please answer each question 1) YES 2) NO 3) SOMETIMES

### Section 1: Volunteer Leaders

- Have my volunteer leaders gone through an application and acceptance process (that includes written application, reference forms, background checks, and interviews?)
- Have my volunteer leaders been screened for any prior criminal, sexual, or physical abuse accusations or violations?
- Have my volunteer leaders been trained for the job I have asked them to do?
- Have I trained volunteers in general safety procedures, and do I discuss specific safety procedures with them prior to an activity or event?
- Do my volunteers understand and practice our prescribed standard of safe conduct with students to avoid any suspicion of sexual misconduct?
- Do my volunteers know their specific jobs at the events they attend?
- Do I have an appropriate adult-student ratio at every event?

### Section 2: Student Information

- Do I have a permission/release form and medical form signed by parent(s) for each participating student?
- Do I have current phone numbers so I can contact parents in case of an emergency?
- Are parents fully informed (in writing) about the activities in which their children will be involved?
- If I have to take any student to the hospital, am I prepared to answer questions I will be asked about personal information, medical information, and insurance?

### Section 3: First Aid and Emergency Response

- Are members of my youth ministry team trained in a certified first aid course?
- Is a person trained in first aid present at all of our youth activities and trips?
- Is our first aid kit adequately stocked and available at all of our youth activities and trips?
- Do I carry with me phone numbers of people who should be contacted in the case of an emergency (ambulance, police, ministry supervisor, parents)?

### Section 4: Drivers and Vehicles

- Do we have a written policy regarding driving standards and who is allowed to drive for all the activities and trips?
- Do we only use drivers who are qualified and responsible?
- Do we prohibit students from driving other students to our activities?
- Do we require the use of seat belts at all times?
- Do we regularly check for safety the vehicles we use, including fluids, brakes, tires, and the like?

## **Section 5: Planning and Preparedness**

- Do we have a clear written set of basic safety rules for the activities of our youth ministry?
- Do we have sufficient insurance coverage for both leaders and kids in our youth ministry?
- While preparing for an event, do I inspect the physical facilities or location and look for any safety hazards?
- To prepare for an event, do I walk through the proposed activities to anticipate what risks are involved?
- Do I think through a worst-case scenario to identify potential problems and to plan responses to those problems?
- When an activity seems dangerous, do I have the wisdom and courage to stop it regardless of the reaction of the students involved?

Each **No** or **Sometimes** answer needs your attention!!! Review these questions and answers with your supervisors and your volunteer staff. Then decide together what you can do to improve the protection you provide for the students in your youth ministry.