

Manitou Youth at Niagara Youth Festival October 27-29, 2017

Participant Code of Conduct

Youth participants will:

- Project an image of Christian consideration, sensitivity, and respect to everyone and to the property around them through language, dress, and behaviour
- Refrain from inappropriate touching, verbal harassment and profanity
- Respect other persons and/or property
- Refrain from actions that could result in injury and/or damage to property
- Adhere to stated curfew
- Attend all scheduled activities, arriving promptly, and staying for the entire event
- Be aware of noise levels in lobbies, hallways, and sleeping areas, especially later in the evenings
- Maintain the spirit of the event
- Follow the direction of adult leadership
- Remain in groups of at least three persons (including one adult leader) during off site free time
- Report problems of any kind to a trusted adult

Youth participants will not:

- Possess weapons of any kind
- Purchase, possess, consume, or distribute alcohol or tobacco
- Purchase, possess, consume, or distribute illegal drugs
- Engage in any form of sexual activity or peer sexual harassment
- Visit or gather privately in rooms with the opposite gender

Youth participants will be aware of what are and *are not* appropriate behaviours in terms of relationships between adults and youth, and with their peers.

The following behaviours are generally considered appropriate at a Manitou Conference youth event:

- Side hugs
- Shoulder to shoulder hugs
- Handshakes
- “High-fives” and hand slapping
- Verbal praise for a job well-done (not regarding physical attributes)
- Touching hands, faces (usually in context of a blessing), shoulders, and arms of minors
- Arms around shoulders
- Holding hands while walking with younger minors
- Sitting beside younger minors
- Kneeling or bending down for hugs with younger minors
- Holding hands during prayer
- Pats on the head when culturally appropriate

The following behaviours are generally considered inappropriate at a Manitou Conference Youth event:

- Inappropriate or lengthy embraces
- Kisses on the mouth

- Holding children on the lap who are capable of sitting on their own
- Touching bottoms, chests, or genital areas
- Showing affection in isolated areas of a facility such as bedrooms, restrooms, bathrooms, closets, staff only areas, or other private rooms
- Being in or on a bed with an adult
- Touching knees or legs of minors
- Wrestling with minors
- Tickling minors
- Piggyback rides
- Any type of massage given by minor to adult or another minor
- Any type of massage given by adult to minor
- Any form of unwanted affection or peer sexual harassment
- Compliments or put downs that relate to physique or body development
- Going to an isolated area away from the group, or being taken to an isolated area by an adult or peer

If a problem of any kind occurs during a Manitou Youth Forum event, young people will immediately go to a trusted adult to discuss the matter. Youth and parents understand that failure to agree to and abide by the Youth Code of Conduct will bar youth from participation in any Manitou Youth Forum event.

Youth Participant Sanctions for Non-Compliance:

For the most part Manitou Conference never has direct responsibility for chaperoning the conduct of youth participants in its programming and events. Manitou Conference relies on group leaders from participants’ home congregations or other chaperones to ensure that every young person attending a Manitou Conference youth event is aware of the Youth Code of Conduct and the sanctions for noncompliance. Group leaders, chaperones, and/or parents bear the responsibility for sharing this information with youth participants. Their failure to do so does not excuse any inappropriate behaviour on the part of youth participants nor does it affect Manitou Conference’s ability to levy sanctions. Youth participants are held to the Youth Code of Conduct regardless.

If a young person violates the Youth Code of Conduct, any or all of the following sanctions may be implemented:

- Reporting of misconduct to local authorities, if the violation in any way violates local ordinances or laws.
- The parents will be notified of the incident and the actions taken by the congregational group leader or chaperone in charge.
- Dismissal of the youth from the Manitou Youth Forum event or program by requesting that the group leader remove the youth from the event (whereby it is the responsibility of the parent to ensure timely, accompanied, and safe transportation home).

Manitou Conference Rendezvous Pilgrimage Participant Code of Conduct Agreement

I _____ as a participant of Manitou Youth at Niagara Youth Festival, have read the Participant Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it. I also accept the consequences for my actions, if I choose not to follow the code.

I/we _____ have read the Manitou Conference Youth Participant Code of Conduct and support my youth’s participation in Manitou Youth at Niagara Youth Festival.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date