PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH

2027 Steubenville Youth Conference Policies and Procedures

Participant Age-Range

Teens:

The Steubenville Youth Conferences serve high school students, those entering 9th- 12th grades or who will have just graduated from high school. To be eligible to attend, teens must have at least completed 8th grade.

Chaperones:

Group Leaders and chaperones **must be 21 years of age or older. There must be at least ONE CHAPERONE PER EIGHT YOUTH of the same gender** at the conference, at all times. (1 adult male for every 8 boys and 1 adult female for every 8 girls.) Bishops, priests and transitional deacons may not be counted as chaperones for your group. Chaperones may not be shared by separately registered groups attending the conference. All adults attending with groups are required to show compliance with the Safe Environment requirements of their home dioceses. Partnership for Youth reserves the right to deny entry to the conference to any group that does not meet the Chaperone requirements. **PLEASE HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF CHAPERONES TO MEET YOUR GROUP'S NEEDS.**

Young Adults:

Young adults ages 19-20 are invited to attend the conference with your group. They may not be chaperones. They are not counted as youth. As an alternative, they may be interested in serving as Volunteers. All young adults attending with groups are required to show compliance with the Safe Environment requirements of their home dioceses.

Requirements of Group Leaders and Chaperones

ALL chaperones must be in compliance with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Please check with your diocesan personnel office with questions regarding this matter. For more information on this, please visit www.usccb.org. It is highly recommended that chaperones be Catholic.

- **Chaperones must be totally committed to following:**
  - Chaperones must accompany their group to all conference sessions.
  - Chaperones must be willing to facilitate a small group. Small group questions will be provided.

- Chaperones must be available during travel, sessions, and overnight.
- Chaperones should prepare spiritually for the conference including an active prayer life and regular reception of the Sacraments.
- **It is very important that chaperones be made aware of any special circumstances of the youth** in his/her group. This includes health problems, family circumstances, and other items that may help the chaperones to minister more effectively.

Bishops and Priests

Bishops and priests are asked and strongly encouraged to attend the Steubenville Youth Conferences. They are a treasure to the Church and an inspiration to our youth. ALL BISHOPS AND PRIESTS ATTEND FREE OF CHARGE.

- All bishops and priests attending the conference MUST register online with your group.
- Bishops and priests may NOT register as chaperones. We ask that all bishops and priests participate in Liturgies and Reconciliation during the conference weekend, therefore, groups must have other adult males registered to meet the chaperone requirements.
- We ask that all bishops and priests check-in, upon their arrival, at the registration desk.
- All bishops and priests attending the conference are asked to bring their own vestments, to concelebrate Mass, and stoles, for hearing confessions. We ask that all bishops and priests wear their clerics throughout the weekend so that they are easily identifiable as clergy.

Transitional Deacons

If a transitional deacon will be ordained prior to the conference start date, they should register using a priest ticket. Transitional deacons must otherwise register with a paid ticket to attend the conference. At conferences where dorm-style lodging is provided, transitional deacons may not be factored into your chaperone ratio requirement. Please contact the PFY office if a transitional deacon is attending with your group for more information.

Seminarians and Permanent Deacons

All Seminarians and permanent deacons must register either as a volunteer or a chaperone with a paid ticket to attend the conference. If they would like to serve in the Liturgical Services during the weekend, please notify the Partnership for Youth office prior to the conference. For conferences with dorm-style lodging: seminarians and permanent deacons will be housed near the youth they chaperone. Please contact the Partnership for Youth office if you have concerns or if this is not permitted by your diocese.

Clergy

Bishops, priests and deacons attending the Steubenville Youth Conferences from outside the diocese in which the conference resides, must provide a Letter of Good Standing / Testimonial of Suitability by the June deadline. Please contact the Partnership for Youth office for more information.

Religious

All religious are invited to attend the Steubenville conference. They are a tangible witness to the youth of

the joy that dedication to the Church through a vocation to Religious life can be.

- They may register as a chaperone with your group or as a volunteer.
- Religious may want to have an Exhibitor table in the conference Marketplace. Please see our website or contact the Partnership for Youth office for more details.

Modesty Guidelines

Partnership for Youth requests that all participants adhere to the following guidelines regarding modest dress. Please go over these with all participants, chaperones, and parents.

Please note that it is the responsibility of group leaders and chaperones to address these guidelines with their teens. Conference staff and volunteers will not personally address modesty with participants unless there is a gross violation.

Please avoid the following:

- Shorts, skirts, or dresses shorter than 5 inches above the knee while standing, or that are tight, drawing attention to the shape of the body.
- Shirts that reveal midriff or are low cut from the neck area.
- Leggings, yoga pants and tights, unless paired with a long, loose-fitting tunic or dress.
- Rolling up of skirts or shorts at the leg or waistband.
- Pants or shorts that sag to the point where they reveal one's undergarments.
- Clothing that may appear to have an anti-Christian message or with writings that include crude language, promotion of alcohol or drug use, or suggestive material of a crude or sexual nature.
- "Free Hugs" signs and shirts.

Additionally:

- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- During all Liturgies and prayers, out of respect, every male must remove any headwear. This includes all hats, visors, headbands, bandanas, etc.
- Individuals serving in any capacity during the weekend's liturgical celebrations are asked to wear long pants or a long skirt and an appropriate shirt.
- Any inappropriate language/behavior/conduct/dancing will not be tolerated.

Guest Policy

The Steubenville Conferences are closed events. Anyone not registered for the conference as a teen participant, young adult, adult chaperone, group leader, clergy, or volunteer WILL NOT be allowed into any areas of the event site at any time throughout the entire weekend. This includes Masses. Special requests for Guest attendance during ANY part of the conference must be pre-approved and compliance with Safe Environment requirements must be fulfilled. Please contact the Partnership for Youth office at least one month prior to the conference for information.

Infants and Children Policy

Although we strongly support Catholic family life, due to insurance regulations and facility constraints,

infants and children are not allowed at the conference.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures

All participants (teens and adults) should attend the entire conference; arriving and departing with their group. The conference theme builds from one session to the next and it is important for participants to be present for the entire weekend. Late arrivals and early departures are strongly discouraged. In the event that the Group Leader wishes to make an exception, please contact the Partnership for Youth office to coordinate the arrival/departure.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Weapons

All local laws concerning alcohol, drugs and weapons will be strictly enforced. Possession and/or consumption of alcohol, drugs, or cannabis in any form are prohibited at all Steubenville Youth Conferences. We have a zero-tolerance policy, and youth or adults found consuming alcohol will be sent home.

- **Violation of Policy:** If a teen is found in possession of drugs, alcohol or weapons; or has consumed drugs or alcohol or is a danger to themselves or others, their parents will be called to come pick them up. Teens may not return to the conference. Teens will be kept with officers at the conference security office in order to keep them safe. Teens will be released only to parents or approved adults to be removed from the conference site. **During the time the teen is with site security, parents will incur a $30/hour charge.**
- At the discretion of Partnership for Youth staff and/or site public safety personnel some offences may be reported to and handled by local law enforcement.

Smoking

All Steubenville Youth Conference facilities are smoke-free. This includes the use of e-cigarettes and vaping. Outside of conference session times, smoking is permitted in designated areas. Please be aware that Minnesota and Wisconsin State laws prohibit anyone under the age of 18 from purchasing tobacco products (including chewing tobacco).

Seating Policy

All Partnership for Youth Steubenville Conferences have assigned seating. Please notify the Partnership for Youth office of any special needs **at least one month prior** to the conference start date. Last-minute seating changes may not be possible.

Missing Teen Policy

It is our primary goal to keep all young people safe while attending a Partnership for Youth Steubenville Youth Conference. In the unlikely event of a teen being reported missing during the conference:

- PFY Safety/Security Coordinator is notified
- Gather details regarding when/where/by whom the youth was last seen
- Confirm teen's access to cell phone/internet/other communication

- Security will check First Aid Station, Counselor, and Housing locations
- After 30 minutes, notify venue safety/security staff
  - With venue staff determine when police are called
  - Once police have been notified, they will take over
- After 60 minutes, Group Leader will be required to notify parent/guardian
- Once teen is found, escort youth to Group Leader and request that parent/guardian be notified
- Depending on circumstances, teen may be sent home

Up-Building Speech

Participants, chaperones, and volunteers are expected to use positive and up-building speech during the conference. Cursing, swearing, and abusive language will not be permitted.

Food

Food may not be brought into conference session areas.
Visit partnershipforyouth.org for more information about which meals are provided.

Prohibited Items:

- **Glow-sticks, laser pointers, beach balls, and flashing items** are not permitted.
- **Clothespins:** No passing out clothespins ('clipping') during the conference.

Camera use:

VIDEO CAMERAS and FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY are not allowed during Liturgical services but are permitted during general sessions. This includes cell phones with cameras and video capabilities. Assigned media representatives will be the only individuals allowed to take pictures or videos during the Liturgy.

Non-Compliance:

Partnership for Youth reserves the right to deny entrance to, or request the ejection of, any group or individual who does not comply with the policies and procedures of the conference. In the event that entrance is denied, or a person(s) is(are) ejected, no refunds will be issued and they will return home that their own expense.

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