

Name of Adult: _____ Church: _____

2016-2017 SOUTHWEST UNITY REGION ADULT AGREEMENTS *FOR ADULTS WORKING WITH YOUTH AT REGIONAL EVENTS*

1. I will prepare myself for all activities and events through prayerful meditation and study. I will attend and participate as a sponsor at all scheduled activities, unless otherwise authorized by event leaders.
2. I understand that I am there to facilitate the youths' experience. I am not there to be one of them, serve as their parent or 'fix' anyone. Nor will I use the youth as my support group, but seek out a minister or my peers for advice and counseling on personal matters.
3. I will adhere to all Southwest Region policies, event agreements and state laws. I will work in harmony with the Region's Event Agent, other event leaders, fellow event staff and minister(s). Should I disagree with their plans, decisions or leadership style, I will address the issue directly with them. I will promptly report any agreement violation or medical situation to event leader, and will discuss with the Region's Event Agent any concerns about a fellow sponsor's decision or conduct.
4. I will not preach my own personal value system. I will stick to teaching Unity Truth principles, the materials provided by the SW Region, as well as Unity Publications and materials published by Unity Worldwide Ministries. I will help teens understand their own beliefs. I will be honest with students, and let them know that my beliefs come from my own spiritual awareness. I will make sure they understand I am not telling them what to think. I will encourage students to discuss why they feel as they do. If I have a topic I would like to present that is not a Unity publication, I will speak with the Regional Consultant prior to doing so.
5. I will respect the parents' authority in matters relating to their child. I will support both teens and their parents by not taking sides about problems they may be having. This does not mean I will avoid being there for them when they need to talk. I will support efforts of everyone in the group to discover how they can apply Truth principles to situations that challenge them, but I will not try to solve their problems for them.
6. I will respect a student's expectation of confidentiality when sharing, but I will not take on the responsibility of keeping a secret that should be shared with their minister, parent or child welfare agency. I will make sure students understand my obligation to report any threat of physical harm to oneself or others. I will discuss any suspicion of abuse or suicidal tendencies immediately with the Event Agent &/or minister. If I am concerned about a youth's behavioral choices (e.g., use of controlled substances), I will discuss such matters FIRST with the Region's Event Agent, the youth's Event Sponsor or their minister.
7. I will be above reproach in my behaviors with teens and other adult leaders. I will maintain appropriate physical boundaries and avoid compromising situations. Specifically, I will:
 - Not tell jokes or speak words which contain sexual innuendoes, nor discuss with youth about my sexual activity or experiences.
 - Not prolong hugs, return a kiss or pull children close to my body. I will not touch anyone on the genitals, breasts or buttocks (which includes not allowing a teen to sit on my lap).
 - Not share a bed with a child not my own.
 - Not pursue a romantic or intimate relationship with a student, and remember that others may not always interpret my intentions accurately. I will abstain from all sexual activity during a youth event and honor the personal boundaries of others.
 - Not possess or use alcohol or illegal drugs at any Regional event. Smoking is not allowed at Y.O.U. events, and only as designated at any other regional youth event.

I have read, understand and agree to comply with these guidelines. I will contact the Consultant if I am unclear about a guideline or its application to a particular situation.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I certify that this adult demonstrates an appropriate understanding of, and complete adherence to, these guidelines, and is unconditionally approved and sponsored by this ministry to participate in Southwest Region events as an adult sponsor. I understand it is our ministry's responsibility to notify the Regional Consultant should our ministry decide to modify or withdraw this affirmation of our support. **Minister's Initials** _____ **Date** _____ (Rev.9/2015)