

RMS-MSYG Covenant

Youth (those in 6th-9th grade) and **Caring Adults** (age 21 and older)

Please read and discuss with your group. Add your own items on the back.

Have each participant sign. Collect before departing for the Middle School Youth Gathering.

These do not need to be sent or turned in at the event. Group leader will be asked to verify congregation's participants have completed & signed the covenant.

Because God calls us to be a cross+generational community of faith and because young people are the most important gifts God entrusts to us, I covenant with my congregation, _____, the Middle School Youth Gathering Participants and the MSYG planning team to follow these policies, procedures and guidelines as a condition of my volunteer participation and leadership in all MSYG related ministry and activities from January 14 -January 16, 2011 while traveling to/from our location in Colorado Springs, CO

I will:

- Become familiar with the objectives and guidelines of the MSYG and strive to achieve these objectives and communicate them appropriately.
- Conduct myself in a manner that reflects my Christian faith and positively represents my family, local congregation, my synod and the MSYG.
- Care for myself physically, emotionally and spiritually, with a goal of positive well-being and over-all health.
- Support and participate in all activities, honoring my own physical and psychological comfort levels, and work together to learn and grow from this experience.
- Uphold the authority of those responsible for the program or activity in which I am participating and assist one another in every way to encourage learning and faith formation.
- Honor the schedule, be punctual for events and understand there is no individual "coming and going" unless I have the permission of my group's adult sponsor or the MSYG planning team.
- Be aware of and keep quiet times.
- Be mindful of others' right to privacy and respect their personal belongings.
- Be responsible and accountable for the stewardship of all resources entrusted to me.
- Use all facilities made available to me/us with care. If I hurt or accidentally damage property, I will take responsibility for the damage done and inform my group's adult sponsor or a member of the MSYG planning team immediately.
- Treat everyone with respect, patience, courtesy, dignity and consideration.
 - I will not tolerate the humiliation or ridicule of anyone in any environment where I am present.
- Honor the equality of all people, avoiding all forms of discrimination and respect the dignity of each person without regard to status, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or physical or mental abilities.
- Use positive reinforcement and effective communication skills
 - I will not criticize nor engage in unhealthy competition, comparison, or use physical discipline or force as a retaliation or correction for inappropriate behavior on the part of another.

I Will:

- Promote an environment that is physically and psychologically safe for myself and others:
 - I will not use profanity.
 - I will not smoke.
 - If as an adult I am already a user of tobacco, I will not smoke in the presence of minors.
 - I will not purchase tobacco for or distribute tobacco products to minors.
 - I will not bring or use or distribute illegal drugs.
 - I will follow the established guidelines for prescription and over-the-counter drugs and medications:
 - I will not share nor give to another my authorized, prescribed drugs or over-the-counter medications.
 - As a person under the age of 18, I will follow the instructions of my parent(s) or guardian and the guidelines established by my group and this event for the intake of my personal prescribed drugs or medications.
 - I will not purchase, possess, use or distribute alcohol.
 - Of course the celebration of communion is our exception.
 - I will not purchase, possess, view, download or distribute pornography.
 - I will not possess weapons or items intended to harm others.
 - I will follow the guidelines of my group and the MSYG related to the use of cell phones and other electronic devices.
- Be respectful of the physical boundaries of individuals and use only age appropriate touch and expressions of affection.
- I will contribute to a "Safe Haven" for all God's children:
 - I will avoid inappropriate language and conduct that offends or that takes advantage of another for my own personal benefit.
 - I will not engage in any form of unwanted affection, inappropriate sexual activity or sexual harassment.
 - I will not visit or gather in private rooms of the opposite gender, unless it is a sanctioned, scheduled group meeting.
 - As an adult age 18 and older, I will avoid situations where I am alone with a minor (17 and under) and with whom I am not related.

I have read the Covenant and understand that a violation of any part of this Covenant may result in the loss of my status as a leader or participant in the MSYG ministry and the loss of the privilege to take part in the MSYG. I agree to accept the consequences implemented at the discretion of my congregation's group leader in consultation with at least two members of the MSYG Planning Team, which may result in my being sent home at my own expense or that of my parent(s) or guardian.

Signature of those 18 and older

Date

Signature of minor age 17 and younger or any age and enrolled in high school

Date

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian of Minor (student 17 or younger or a H.S. student)

Date