

Guidelines for Adults at Steubenville Conferences

Life Teen is committed to creating an unforgettable and life-changing experience for the youth we serve at Steubenville Conferences, and effective relational ministry is key to creating this experience.

All adults attending a Steubenville Conference hosted by Life Teen are responsible for setting and maintaining clear, appropriate boundaries in all ministry relationships. In regard to specific safe environment standards, you should adhere to the policies as defined by your home diocese. However, Life Teen recognizes that standards can vary from diocese to diocese, and for consistency at Steubenville Conferences, Life Teen has outlined some general guidelines below regarding what is considered appropriate or inappropriate forms of interactions with minors. This list is not meant to replace the guidelines from your own diocese, but it is meant to be a reminder and a guide for your time at Steubenville Conferences. Any suspected inappropriate behavior should be reported to a member of the Event Staff.

Appropriate affection between adults and minors is a positive part of relational ministry. The following forms of affection are regarded as appropriate examples for ministry relationships:

- side hugs;
- shoulder-to-shoulder or “temple” hugs;
- pats on the shoulder or back;
- handshakes;
- “High-Fives” and hand slapping;
- verbal praise;
- holding hands during prayer.

Some forms of physical affection have been used by adults to initiate inappropriate contact with minors. In order to maintain the safest possible environment for minors, the following are examples of affection that are **not** to be used:

- inappropriate or lengthy embraces;
- kisses;
- holding minors on the lap;
- touching bottoms, chests or genital areas;
- showing affection in isolated areas or private rooms;
- being on a bed with a minor;
- touching knees or legs of teens;
- wrestling with minors;
- tickling minors;
- piggyback rides;
- any type of massage given by a minor to an adult or by an adult to a minor;
- any form of unwanted affection;
- compliments that relate to physique or body development.

Please also be sure to always maintain groups of 3 or more. If for pastoral purposes you need to be alone with a minor, do so in the “line of sight” of others.

Additionally, participants will not bring weapons to the event or use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Lastly group leaders and chaperones will not smoke or use tobacco products, including vaping, or use profanity in the presence of teens.

Your presence is an important part of this weekend. Thank you for your time and dedication in serving the youth of our Church!