



Guidelines for Protection for Adults at Momentum Youth Conference 2023

Momentum Youth Conference

Because we believe that all youth at Momentum Youth Conference are to be safe and kept from any harm, the following are guidelines that are expected to be followed by the youth workers of each local church and any adults on campus during this week. Most of these are common sense. While your church may have different guidelines, we need each group to cooperate with these guidelines the week of Momentum.

Here is what we already do (general guidelines):

1. Parental/guardian authorization releases.
2. Adults are local church members/attendees who are approved by their local church and indicated that they are free from sexual offenses or issues relating to any form of abuse.
3. Health Issues. While permission is granted to administer emergency care to young people, utmost efforts are to be made to call parents in any emergency.
4. Guidelines set by the conference are established to provide safety, health, and protection for all in attendance.
5. Adults are required to sign the willingness to adhere to these basic guidelines of protection.

Personal Expectations

1. Adults should work with young people in reasonably open places where others are welcome to enter. (NOT behind closed or locked doors.) Preference is for male adults to counsel male students, and female adults to counsel female students.
 - a. if counseling students after dorm check is necessary, adults should use the open spaces within their own dorm; or dorm room with door opened.
 - b. under no circumstances should an adult from another youth group counsel students other than their own local church's students without the knowledge and consent of the youth leader from the other group. Any such counseling should only take place prior to the evening session. (i.e., not during evening youth group time, or prior to dorm check, or after dorm check hours.)
2. Respect privacy of youth, especially when clothes are changed, or showers taken.
3. Never use physical punishment.
4. One unrelated adult should not be lodged with only one youth while staying overnight.
5. No adult is to administer medications to a student unless the parent/guardian has given that permission to the youth worker. In non-emergency issues the adults will use the Momentum first aid team.
6. Each adult working with young people should:
 - a. Treat all young people with respect and dignity.
 - b. Not engage in any of the following:
 - i. Scapegoating, ridiculing or rejecting a young person;
 - ii. Making any racially provocative comments to a young person, even in fun;
 - iii. Rough, physical or sexually provocative games;

- iv. Making sexually suggestive comments about or to a young person, even in fun;
 - v. Inappropriate and intrusive touching of any form;
 - vi. Sexual relationships with young people even if they consent.
7. If an adult suspects or is informed that there is some form of abuse taking place that adult must report it to the main youth worker of their church or to the Momentum Ministry Partners' Executive Director of Ministry.
 8. If a circumstance arises that a local church desires to send any student or adult home early during the week (health/medical, discipline, family emergency, other) the first step is to contact the appropriate Momentum Staff. Under no circumstances should someone leave campus prior to the closing date without the advance notice of the Momentum Ministry Partners' Executive Director of Ministry or the Momentum Special Referral Staff.
 9. Adults or students visiting Momentum (who are not registered for the entire week) are not permitted to stay overnight in the dorm with any registered Momentum attendee, this includes Day Guests. University (and Momentum) policies of dorm rooms are not like a hotel room. Registered Momentum guests do not pay for the room or for a bed. It is a per person rate. Therefore, an empty bed (or "just sleeping on the floor" is not an option for visiting guests. In addition, this is a policy both for integrity and liability protection.

Youth Worker: A Youth Worker from a church supervises a group of same-gender students (with a 1:12 ratio) during the week of Momentum. Adults registered as "youth worker" stay in the dorm with their students. (Adults registered as "Adult Guests" do not qualify toward the ratio listed above.) The minimum number of Youth Workers needed per group will be determined by the number of same-gender students.

All Youth Workers are required to attend the 5:00 p.m. Staff Orientation meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, as well as attend daily Staff Breakfast Meetings held Wednesday-Saturday, July 19-22, 2023.

Note: Individuals wanting to serve as a "youth worker" during Momentum should be at least 21 years of age. If younger than 21, please contact momentum@buildmomentum.org to see if you qualify to serve as "youth worker".

You are responsible for your youth as it relates to attendance, attitude, guidelines, discipline and spiritual guidance, safety, health, and all oversight.

See the FAQ's sheet for options to consider if your group does not have the needed ratio of registered youth workers.