

**VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY**

Preamble

Our children and young people are the most important gifts God has entrusted to us. As a volunteer, I promise to strictly follow the rules and guidelines in this *Volunteer Code of Conduct*, as well as the *Code of Conduct* of the Diocese of Rapid City, as it applies to me. My observance of these rules and guidelines is a condition of supervising minors in the parishes, schools, and other organizations of the Diocese of Rapid City.

As a volunteer, I will:

- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity and consideration.
- Avoid situations in which I am alone with minors at church activities.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism, competition or comparison when working with minors.
- Refuse to accept expensive gifts from minors or their parents or legal guardian without prior written approval from the pastor or parish administrator.
- Refrain from giving expensive gifts to minors without prior written approval from their parents or legal guardian and the pastor or parish administrator.
- Report suspected abuse of minors to the pastor, parish administrator or appropriate supervisor and the local Child Protection Services agency. I understand that failure to report suspected abuse of minors to civil authorities is, according to the law, a misdemeanor.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of minors.

As a volunteer, I will not:

- Smoke or use tobacco products in the presence of minors.
- Use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol at any time while volunteering.
- Use, possess or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Pose any health risk to minors or allow exposure to contagious health conditions.
- Strike, spank, shake or slap minors.
- Humiliate, ridicule, threaten or degrade minors.
- Touch minors in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Use any discipline that frightens or humiliates minors.
- Use profanity in the presence of minors.

I understand that, as a volunteer supervising minors, I am subject to a thorough background check, including any criminal history. I understand that any action inconsistent with this *Volunteer Code of Conduct* or failure to take action mandated by this *Volunteer Code of Conduct* shall result in my removal as a volunteer supervisor of minors.

Volunteer's Printed Name

Printed Name of Sponsoring Organization

Volunteer's Signature

Date