

Guidelines for CMCL Senior Youth Events

Adopted by Children and Youth Committee

1. Ideas for activities grow out of at least some of the priorities expressed in our dialogue sessions:
 - a. A place where everyone is equal, where everyone is heard
 - b. A place to build community, beyond social
 - c. A place to explore faith
 - d. A place to understand who we are as part of the larger church, community and world (service)
2. The ideal: at least two activities per month – at least one Wednesday evening and one other event whenever it works best. (Roughly 1/3 of our youth said the Wednesday night timeframe prevents them from being involved.)
3. Events are well-communicated in advance, including a starting time and ending time. Use the following means of communication for all planned activities: e-mail listserv (recurring Wed. gatherings may be communicated solely by email), bulletin, handout in church mailboxes and posted in Gathering Place.
4. Obtain parental permission if car-pooling is needed.
5. Plan for at least two adults to chaperone each event.
6. CMCL's Child Safety Policy and these guidelines shall be applied to official Sr. Youth activities during designated times, taking place on church property and /or communicated through congregational means (such as listserv or church mailboxes). To be clear, households are free to host sleepovers or other activities beyond the parameters of any official activity at their own discretion and assume responsibility thereafter. Parents and youth, when planning such activities, are encouraged to be aware that some households are less comfortable with spontaneous events, hindering participation from some youth. CMCL encourages parents to provide information to each other about how sleepovers will be supervised in their households.

(Note: These recommendations grew directly out of results from senior youth and parent surveys and two dialogue sessions which happened April thru August 2007. Updates were made in 2009 to clarify points of confusion regarding over-night activities.)