

CODE OF ETHICS

***The following statement is submitted as a “Code of Ethics” for
Adults working with children and youth:***

Adults and older youth that are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of both individuals and the community. It is, therefore especially important that those in leadership positions be well qualified to provide the special nurturing, care and support that will enable children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility. The relationship between young people and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential of their relationship is to be realized.

One of the most important areas of growth is the development of self-worth and a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth. Wisdom dictates that children, youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care, therefore, leaders will refrain from engaging in any kind of sexual behavior with children and youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with children or youth that constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse.

Adults should also model the positive and respectful behaviors that we expect of children and youth: courtesy, timeliness, orderliness, use of affirming verbal and body language, and refraining from smoking in front of the children and youth. REMEMBER – we are all here for the youth and to make their experience as fulfilling as possible.

Leaders shall be informed of the code of ethics and agree to it before assuming their role. In cases of violation of this role, appropriate action will be taken.

I have read the above “Code of Ethics” and agree to abide by this code while serving as a volunteer with Children & Youth at Emerson UUC.

Adult Signature: _____ **Date:** _____