

Student Ministry Leader Standards

Clear, adaptable safeguards for healthy boundaries, wise communication, dependable service, and a trustworthy ministry culture.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

01

Read together

Let your leaders read the guide before the conversation.

02

Talk honestly

Use the prompts to name where the ministry is today.

03

Choose one move

Leave with a next step your team can actually take.

START THE CONVERSATION

Where do we need clearer boundaries or stronger follow-through?

SECTION 01

Choose visible, accountable spaces

Ministry relationships should be warm and appropriate, never isolated or unclear. Meet in visible settings and follow your church's two-adult and transportation policies.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- + Avoid being alone with a student in private spaces or vehicles.
- + Respect physical and emotional boundaries.
- + Bring another approved adult into any situation that needs support.

SECTION 02

Communicate with wisdom

Students notice the example leaders set online and in private conversations. Keep communication transparent, age-appropriate, and connected to your church's established channels.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- + Avoid private social-media messaging whenever possible.
- + Use parent-aware or group communication practices.
- + Never promise secrecy when safety is involved.

SECTION 03

Respond to safety concerns

If a student shares about abuse, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, danger, or harm toward others, report it immediately through the appropriate church and civil channels. Follow your church's safeguarding policy and local reporting requirements.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- + Act immediately and do not investigate alone.
- + Never promise confidentiality in a safety situation.
- + Document and notify the appropriate leaders according to your policy.

SECTION 04

Lead with integrity

Leaders create trust by being approachable, kind, prepared, and consistent. Communicate early when you cannot attend, stay engaged with students, avoid gossip, and model the same integrity in private that you teach in public.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- + Show up early and ready to serve.
- + Protect unity and focus conversations on solutions.
- + Stay humble, teachable, faithful, and surrendered.

MAKE THE NEXT STEP CLEAR

Choose one change your team can make this week. A simple, shared practice is more useful than a perfect plan that never begins.

CHOOSE A NEXT MOVE

Team decision: _____

Who will carry it forward: _____

When we will return to it: _____