

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

CUC Youth Program Rules

RULES, CONSEQUENCES AND COMMUNITY

These rules were approved by the CUC Board in 2001, ratified in January 2002 and amended in February 2005.

- No drugs or alcohol
- Adults must remain in the role of advisor at all times
- All conferees/parents must sign the medical release
- No weapons, violence or threats of violence
- No leaving the site except as part of an activity
- All participants must follow site rules
- No drop-ins
- Code of Ethics must be signed
- No violating the policy on sexual behaviour
- Must be between 14 to 20 years of age
- No sharing of sleeping bags
- Nudity in CUC youth con community is not permitted.
- Participants must have a completed registration form submitted before the weekend begins.

REACH OF RULES MAY RESULT IN PARTICIPANTS BEING DISALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REMAINDER OF THE CONFERENCE

Home Hospitality for Youth attending Retreats, Meetings or Trainings

Where home hospitality is used for a retreat, meetings or training, homes selected and approved by the host committee will: be homes of members of the congregation, meet insurance and fire code standards and have an adult 25 years or older agreeing to this use and present in the home. Youth will always stay in groups of 2 or more and a signed parental waiver will be required for home hospitality.

All CUC youth community rules and CUC policies will apply while youth are being hosted in a member's home.

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

Congregational Authorization

Youth: CUC Guidelines require youth be associated with a UU Youth Group or a UU congregation to be permitted to participate in regional or national events. By signing this form, I hereby acknowledge that this individual has attended at least 3 Youth Group or program meetings at our Congregation within the last six months or is involved in the wider denomination as a whole in other ways.

Signature

Position

Date

Authorized signatures include but are not limited to a Minister, DRE, youth advisor or congregational leader. Please sign, date and include your title with your congregation.

Adults: CUC Guidelines require Adult Advisors or Sponsors to be at least **25 years of age** and must have been attending their local congregation for **at least six months** in order to serve as an advisor at a regional or national event. All advisors attending any CUC conference will have been vetted through their local congregation, including **personal reference checks** and must have had a **Criminal Records Check or Police Records Check** completed and on file with their local congregation (or complete one and send to the Director of Lifespan Learning) prior to attending this youth conference. It is acknowledged that this check is valid only on the day it is completed and it is therefore incumbent on the volunteer to inform the CUC if there is a change in the status of their compliance. To value the youth community, a new PRC must be renewed every 3 years.

By signing this form, I hereby acknowledge that this adult has been screened through our congregation including personal reference checks and a police record check (PRC) and has been attending for at least six months. If PRC has not been done, please check below.

- Congregational screening did not include a PRC – the advisor will have one completed and confirmation sent to the CUC Director of Lifespan Learning.

Signature

Position

Date

Authorized signatures include a Minister, DRE, or congregational leader. Please sign, date and include your title with your congregation.

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

The Committees:

The Spirit Committee consists of a team of an adult and youth in leadership that are awake throughout the night on rotating shifts where the community is staying together on site, to mitigate risk and monitor needs. The spirit committee also wake up everyone each morning! The Spirit Committee will help build ownership of healthy community and monitor where the community is at on an on-going basis.

The Conference Affairs Committee (CAC) is formed of the deans or designated youth leaders of the conference, the youth's sponsor in the case of a youth, a chaplain to support the person(s) involved, a CUC staff member or the adult coordinator and the person(s) involved in a breach of rules. The CAC processes issues brought forth using the principle of restorative justice so we can help people learn and the outcomes will hopefully bring growth and learning.

The Conference Affairs Committee will file a report on issues brought before the CAC to the Director of Lifespan Learning.

The Consequences:

Consequences chosen by Conference Affairs Committee will always be situational and will come from a point of restorative justice, learning and growth. We would hope that both the individual involved and the community as a whole would learn how consequences are reflected in and by one's choices and actions. We understand that in cases of violence and abuse there will be zero tolerance and all adults must act as mandatory reporters of such activities. It is also understood that the CUC Crisis Response Protocol will come into play with these and other serious issues.

Policy On Sexual Behaviour

Sexuality is a healthy and important part of young people's lives. Youth programs are an opportunity for youth to express themselves in healthy ways. Exclusive relationships detract from the community. All members of the community must respect each other's physical boundaries. Inappropriate sexual behaviour (i.e. sexual intercourse, oral sex, heavy petting or sexual harassment) is not permitted. Nudity in CUC youth con community is not permitted. The Conference Affairs Committee reserves the right to deem any behaviour inappropriate. Parents/guardians are invited to discuss this policy with youth

Everyone (youth and adults) must sign:

I, _____, have read, understand and agree to abide by all rules of this conference. I agree that if I break the rules I may be asked to leave at my own or my parent's/guardian's expense.

Signed _____ Date _____

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

Parents or Guardians must sign:

I, _____, am the parent/guardian of _____,
who will be attending the _____
(Conference/Retreat/Training) _____ (site) of _____ (city),
on _____ (Date/s)

I hereby give my consent and authority for the staff of the program to take any reasonable action to ensure the safety, health and welfare of my youth. I also give my consent for any necessary medical treatment, including surgical care if needed. I understand that my youth will be required to follow the rules of the CUC youth program and any other site used and that a breach of those rules may result in my youth being sent home at my expense. I expect to be contacted to arrange travel home if it becomes necessary.

Signed _____ Date _____

Canadian Unitarian Council

Code of Ethics for Adults and Older Youth Working with Children and Youth

Adults and older youth who are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering 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 nurture, 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 youth and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if positive potential is to be realized. There are no more important areas of growth than those of self-worth and the development of 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 sexual, seductive, or erotic 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.

Leaders shall be informed of the code of ethics and agree to it before assuming their role as a staff or volunteer at all programs supported regionally or nationally within the Canadian Unitarian Council.

In cases of violation of this code at CUC sponsored youth conferences or events, if further action is deemed necessary following due process of the Conference Affairs Committee, appropriate action will be taken by the CUC staff and Board through the Crisis Response Protocol.

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

I have read and understand the above statements of position, expectations, and actions. I agree to follow this code of ethics and abide by CUC policies.

Name Printed _____

Name Signed _____ Date _____