



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS

I will:

- Never be alone with children and/or youth at GARSEF activities without another adult being notified.
- Utilize buddy systems and pursue safety in numbers when another adult is not available to help, e.g. a child who needs to use a bathroom during a group activity will be accompanied by another child of the same sex.
- Maintain appropriate physical boundaries at all times and touch children - when necessary -only in ways that are appropriate, public, and non-sexual.
- Comply with the mandatory reporting regulations of the State of Texas. I understand that failure to report suspected child abuse to civil authorities is against the law.
- Cooperate fully in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.
- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity, and consideration.
- Use positive reinforcement rather than criticism or comparison when working with children and/or youth.

I will not:

- Take photos of, or with children unless having received prior approved Photo Release guidelines by GARSEF.
- Touch or speak to a child and/or youth in a sexual or other inappropriate manner.
- Inflict any physical or emotional abuse such as striking, spanking, shaking, slapping, humiliating, ridiculing, threatening, or degrading children and/or youth.
- Smoke or use tobacco or marijuana products, or possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time while working with children and/or youth.
- Provide transportation to a child who is not my own unless doing so is an acknowledged component of a program that the program director is aware of.
- Accept or give gifts to children or youth without the knowledge of their parents or guardians and GARSEF.
- Engage in private communications with children via text messaging, email, Facebook, Twitter or similar forms of electronic or social media except for activities strictly involving GARSEF business.
- Use profanity in the presence of children and/or youth at any time.

Name

Signature

Date