

WBC Youth Vehicle/Travel Rules for Trips

All trips have the potential to be great adventures, full of learning, laughing, and making memories. That is what they are supposed to be; however, occasionally there are events on trips that take the fun away and leave youth and chaperones with anxiety and/or grief. No one wants that. These unfortunate times often result from poor judgment, poor behavior, or a lack of guidance during the actual travel phase of the trip. Some basic guidelines for avoiding the most common problems will help us to have better trips with fewer accidents and more smiles.

1. No student may drive a vehicle to or from an off campus church sponsored event without express permission from the Minister of Students or the Pastor. No one under the age of 18 will drive any vehicle for any church event.
2. The following items are not allowed on church trips: Non-prescribed drugs, drinking alcohol, any tobacco product, pornography of any kind, weapons of any kind, offensive music or clothing.
3. **NO ONE GOES ANYWHERE ALONE.** While the group is actively traveling, no one goes anywhere alone. It is a good idea to never be alone while the group is on a trip but not actively traveling unless you are in the bathroom or in your dorm room.
4. No student may leave a vehicle for any reason without the express permission of a chaperone, and then no one goes alone.
5. **Vehicle stops are not social times!** Youth must listen to all stop instructions carefully before they can leave the vehicle. When youth have been cleared to leave the vehicles they should IMMEDIATELY do what they need to do: go to the bathroom, get snacks and drinks (if allowed in the afore mentioned instructions), stretch your legs, and be ready to re-board the vehicles as soon as the call is made to do so. Travel stops should take as little time as physically possible.
6. No one gets out of a vehicle without shoes of some kind on their feet.
7. No yelling, fighting, or rough play in vehicles.
8. **Food:**
 - a. Limit messy foods in the vehicles. This especially includes meltable candies like, but not limited to, chocolate and gummy candies. Items of this type should be consumed immediately and not stored in the vehicle.
 - b. No food or drinks should be left in the vehicle after we reach our destination.
 - c. Extra large fountain drinks, etc. should not be purchased or brought on long trips. Drink what you need, but avoid over drinking that will result in frequent bathroom stops that will lengthen the trip.

9. When we are staying at hotels or dorm facilities of any kind there will be no boys in girls rooms and no girls in boys rooms for any reason other than the event of a life threatening emergency.
10. No Public Displays of Affection (PDAs) are allowed. No boys and girls under the same blanket on the bus or in the van. Any physical contact beyond friendly hugs and holding hands is considered totally inappropriate.
11. Audio players, cell phones, personal digital assistants, and portable game devices will normally be allowed on most outings for use in the vehicles during the travel phase of trips only. Headphones/earbuds are required. The use of these devices during camps and outings will be determined on an event by event basis. (No personal radios on the driver's frequencies)
12. **NO PRACTICAL JOKES ON TRIPS!** This is a hard and fast rule for us. Everyone is usually uncomfortable enough while we travel without a practical joke to make it worse.
13. All students are to respect other students and their property. Do not be digging in anyone else's bags, etc. without permission for any reason.

Drivers

1. All drivers for the church van must be 25 yrs of age or older and on the church's insured drivers list.
2. All drivers of personal vehicles must be 18 yrs of age or older.
3. All drivers should have a personal radio for immediate communication as needed, when ever possible. Exchanging cell phone numbers prior to leaving on trips is a wise move in the event of the group getting separated by more than one half mile.
4. All vehicles should make every effort to remain in immediate proximity of the vehicle caravan with no more than one non-group vehicle between group vehicles.
5. Changing lanes can be a dangerous move with a caravan in traffic. The correct way to do it is as follows:
 - a. The call is made by the leader for a lane change via radio, cell call, or a lane change signal. All vehicles will "telegraph" the change signal back to the last vehicle in the caravan.
 - b. The last vehicle in the line changes lanes first and blocks the new lane to "cut a hole" for the rest of the vehicles to enter into.
 - c. As openings come available vehicles should change lanes without delay starting from the back until all have moved over. Do not wait too long as non-group vehicles have been known to cut into our openings from behind if given room. This is foolish and VERY, VERY DANGEROUS.