



# STUDENT RULES

## Introduction

- Teen Challenge is a spiritual program. Some of the procedures may be a new experience for you. We simply advise that you approach them with an open mind. We are here to tell you that God cares about you and can help you. Jesus Christ is our program. Without him we do not have a program. We don't consider a man to be really in the program until he is in Christ. If you will be honest and yield yourself to the Holy Spirit while you are here, He will reward you.

## New Students

- Each new student will be completely searched and required to take a shower upon entrance. No visits or telephone calls are permitted during the first two weeks. For the first two weeks new students are not allowed to talk to or sit with other new students who have been here less than two weeks.

## General Restrictions

- No smoking (tobacco products of any kind), drugs, or alcoholic beverages are permitted including times when off campus.
- No cursing, foul language of any kind. Discussions about former life, drugs or alcohol is generally prohibited except in educational settings and counseling sessions.
- Each student is expected to use acceptable forms of address, such "Brother Smith" or "Sister Jones". Slang expressions and nicknames are not acceptable. Students are to address one another by their proper name.
- Students are required to be ready and on time for all scheduled events. No excuses of any kind are accepted for being late.
- Fighting is never tolerated. Anyone caught fighting will be automatically dismissed.
- No one should be lying down during the day without written staff approval. You may not lie down during free time or at any time between 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. unless you are ill.
- If you are too ill to get up in the morning you must remain in bed all day. Your temperature may be taken and soup will be brought to you. You may get up only to use the bathroom. Otherwise you may be sent to the emergency room.
- Students having to go off campus an excessive number times (15) for personal reasons will have time added to the program. This includes going to doctor, dentist, probation officers, etc.

- No one is allowed outside the designated boundaries without staff accompaniment or approval. (See section under boundaries).
- If you are given an answer to a question by a staff or intern do not ask anyone else unless you inform them of what the other staff or intern has said. **Do not keep going to staff until you get the answer you want.**
- No current student is allowed to talk to anyone who has left the Teen Challenge program early.
- No secular reading materials of any kind are allowed unless the director gives special permission. Only approved Christian reading material is allowed.
- No stray animals are to be petted or fed. No cats are ever to be fed.

### **Chapel, Devotions, and Church**

- Your bed must be properly made and your area neat before prayer time in the morning.
- Morning Prayer sets the pace for your entire day. You may not be accustomed to praying out loud, but we encourage you to try. You will find that as you verbalize your requests you will develop your ability to communicate with the Lord. Also, as you pray out loud for others it will encourage them.
- The position of prayer is on the knees between the pews, (no sitting in pews or lying down). Exceptions must have permission of staff on duty. You must have your head up to the point that your face can be seen (not lying down in a chair or the pews with your head on your arms or the pew, not hiding your face in your hands or any other way.)
- You may not read during prayer time. This includes the Bible.
- All students must sit together in all church services. When at church you are expected to focus your attention on those conducting the service. Do not stare at the members of the congregation. Students are not permitted to visit with, or receive addresses or phone numbers from members of the opposite sex they might meet during chapel or church services. Students are not permitted to go to the restroom without staff permission. Do not ask unless it is an emergency. When attending churches, you are not to be going to members of the church and praying for them – they will come to you if it is appropriate. You are not to be taking any action that draws attention to yourself. Arms are not allowed on the backs of the pews.

### **Mail**

- The only people you are allowed to correspond with are members of your immediate legal family. The Staff member on duty will monitor all incoming and out-going mail. You will not be allowed to correspond with any friends, from the street, girlfriends or boyfriends. All outgoing mail is to be left unsealed in a designated place.
- The mail will be handed out as soon as possible. Do not ask for it ahead of time or try to receive it from the mailman, or retrieve it from the mailbox.
- Do not put your name on mailing list of churches, ministries, or other organizations while you are at Teen Challenge.

## **Phone Calls**

- You must be here for two weeks before making or receiving any phone calls. You may only call immediate legal family --- no old friends, girlfriends or boyfriends. You are permitted two phone calls per week. This may include two outgoing calls or two incoming calls, or one of each. Phone calls are limited to 10 minutes. A record will be kept of all the calls you make and receive. DO NOT make a call unless it is logged. The intern or staff on duty will dial the phone and make the connection - YOU are not to dial the number. You are not to be on the phone unless it is logged into the phone log - so before you get on the phone make sure it is logged. Don't ask for more than your limit. Phone calls will be made at appointed times only. All outgoing long distance calls must be collect or by calling card. All phone calls are subject to being monitored.
- You are NOT permitted to have a Cell phone.

## **Meals (Food & Drink)**

- Students must be on time (by prayer), or you may not be allowed to eat.
- Do not take food or drink out of the dining hall or to your room. Eat your meals in the dining room. No food is to be wasted. Each student must eat all food taken. You may refuse any food item, or request smaller portions of any item. You are allowed only one cup of coffee or tea (if offered) at breakfast.
- If you are fasting, you must have Program Directors approval and tell the staff on duty. When fasting you must be in the chapel praying during the mealtime.
- No drinks, food, gum, candy, etc. of any kind are allowed in the chapel, class, Church (anywhere) or in the dormitory area (except individually wrapped hard candy). After drinking a soda, be sure to deposit your can in the appropriate place (save all soda cans in designated place), when finished drinking.
- No one is allowed to make any "special" food or drink of any kind.

## **Money**

- Students are not allowed to have money of any kind at Teen Challenge; however, we do allow students to have a Wal-Mart card only.

## **Musical Instruments**

- Do not bring any musical instruments. Only approved Christian music and such practice music as necessary to develop your skills are allowed. The use of any musical instrument is a privilege. It may be suspended if abused. No one is allowed to play any of the instruments that are in the chapel, or any church we attend without permission.

## **Personal Hygiene and Grooming for Men**

- A shower must be taken everyday. Showers are to be limited to 5 minutes or less (only one shower a day unless approved otherwise). The face is to be shaved everyday. Any personal items left in the bathroom may be thrown away.

- Hair must be neatly trimmed. It may reach the top of the collar and top of ear only. Sideburns should reach the middle of the ear. No burrs, crew cuts, flattops, wedges, fades, sculptures, lines etc. Hair must be tapered and neat and no less than a number two cut. All haircuts must be pre-approved by Executive Staff.
- Each student will dress neatly and appropriately for all occasions. All pants and jeans must be worn at the top of you waist. All ball caps must be worn properly or you will lose this privilege. Belts, socks, and pants with belt loops are to be worn at all times when you are out of your dorm room. No suspenders. Blue jeans and/or sneakers (tennis shoes) may not be worn to church services (this includes the Tuesday night praise in). Socks are to be worn with all footwear. Sandals, flip-flops, thongs etc. are not permitted out of the dorm.
- Shorts may be worn for sports or work duties on campus, only. They must reach to the middle of the kneecap and be hemmed (no cut-offs). Appropriate causal dress must be worn to class (collared shirts and long pants).
- Church services and all choir services require dress slacks, a dress shirt, dress shoes, and ties (only standard full length ties - no bolo or bow ties).
- The only jewelry permitted is a wristwatch and a wedding ring. Any other items must be approved by the Director.
- Neckerchiefs on the head, neck, or dangling from the pocket are not permitted. Sunglasses and hats may only be worn if working out in the direct sunlight and all hats must be worn properly.
- Rock group T-shirts, motorcycle club type T-shirts, plain white T-shirts or T-shirts with tobacco, beer, etc. printed on them are not permitted. (All slogans and symbols must be approved). Tank tops are not permitted at any time.
- Torn and/or tattered clothing such as patchy jeans, etc. are not allowed.
- When leaving the shower to go to your room, you must be covered with a towel or a robe. Do not walk around naked in your room. Use as much modesty as possible.
- Mouthwash containing alcohol is NOT permitted.

#### **Personal Hygiene and Grooming for Women**

- A shower must be taken everyday. Showers are to be limited to 10 minutes or less, a maximum of 15 minutes in the bathroom per student. Only one shower a day unless approved otherwise. Any personal items left in the bathroom may be thrown away.
- Hair must be clean and neatly brushed according to haircut and style. Hair must be kept away from face and eyes. Nor outrageous haircuts, colors, or styles. Haircuts and color must be pre-approved by Program Director.
- Each student will dress neatly and appropriately for all occasions. Blue jeans and/or sneakers (tennis shoes) may not be worn to church services (this includes the Tuesday night praise in). Socks or hose are to be worn with all footwear when out of the dorm rooms. Sandals, flip-flops, etc. are not permitted out of the dorm.

- Shorts and skorts may be worn for sports or work duties on campus only. They must reach to the middle of the kneecap and be hemmed (no cut-offs). Appropriate causal dress must be worn to class; such as nice jeans, casual slacks, blouses, skirts or dresses. No sleeveless wear whatsoever is permitted. No mid-rib shirts or blouses. No mini length, tight fitting apparel, spandex, stretch pants/leggings, sweat-pants, warm-ups, or exercise clothing is permitted.
- Church services and all choir services require dresses or dress skirts and blouses.
- The Student is allowed to wear jewelry, but is limited to wear only one at a time of each of the following: wedding ring or ring, wristwatch, bracelet, and one set of earrings. No body piercing jewelry. The Director must approve any other items.
- Neckerchiefs or scarves on the head, neck, or dangling from the pocket are not permitted. Sunglasses and hats may only be worn if working out in the direct sunlight and all hats must be worn properly.
- Rock group T-shirts, motorcycle club type T-shirts, plain white T-shirts, tobacco, beer, etc. White T-shirts are not permitted. (All slogans and symbols must be approved). Tank tops are not permitted at any time.
- Torn and/or tattered clothing such as patchy jeans, etc. are not allowed.
- When leaving the shower to go to your room, you must be covered with a robe. Or fully dressed. Do not walk around unclothed in your room. Use as much modesty as possible.
- Make-up must be moderate if worn.
- Nails must be kept clean and at moderate length. Nail polish is permitted, but must be maintained or not worn at all. Polish and polish remover is stored in locked medicine cabinet.
- No mouthwash or perfume containing alcohol is permitted.

### **Recreation**

- All students are required to participate in all phases of the recreation program. When you are involved in recreation at outside facilities, stay in the designated areas. It is expected that students will maintain a Christian witness in all sports or leisure activities. Ping-pong, softball, chess, checkers, etc. are privileges. You may lose access to these activities if you abuse them. The first abuse is not asking permission. Staff or intern must supervise team sports. Students on discipline are not permitted to be in the area.

### **Rooms**

- Room doors must remain open at all times, unless permission is granted otherwise. Do not leave fans running or lights on, if you leave your room. This will result in consequences. (They may be taken). Your room must be neat and clean at all times. You will be personally responsible for your own area.
- All clothing must be properly hung in your closet, or neatly folded in your dresser. Towels must be hung on the hook inside your closet. Sheets, blankets, etc. are not to be

hung on the sides of the beds. Dirty clothes must be taken care of appropriately. Do not leave them in a pile in your closet.

- Your bed must be made immediately after wake up (every day), and remain made up until you retire in the evening. All desks, window ledges, etc. must be kept clean. Rooms may be inspected any time. You are not allowed out of your bed before wake-up time, except to use the bathroom.
- You are expected to be in your dorm one hour before lights out (example: 9:00 if lights out is 10:00). This time may be earlier according to the discretion of the staff on duty. Devotion time is the last 15 minutes before lights out; all students shall be in a posture of devotion at this time. Lights are to be turned out immediately after devotion. All personal items must be taken care of prior to devotions. (Going to the bathroom, getting drinks, getting clothes ready for the next day, etc. is to be done before devotions start, not afterwards. When the lights are turned out, BE QUIET. NO TALKING. From lights out until wake-up you are expected to remain in your bed. If you are found any place other than your room, or the bathroom, between these hours, you will be considered off the premises without permission.
- Stay out of other resident's rooms. Never take anything from another resident without permission; you may be accused of stealing.
- Nothing is to be tacked, nailed, or stapled to any walls, ceilings, or furniture. No tape is to be used on any walls or ceilings that are sheet rocked.
- No exercises are to be done in the dorm or building.

### **Televisions, Radio, and Electronic Equipment**

- Other than watching sporting events on Sunday afternoon and the national news at 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM weekdays. Television viewing is not a part of the Teen Challenge program.
- No type of electronic equipment is permitted in the dorms. This includes but is not limited to radios, CD players, computers, televisions, electronic games, etc.
- Cameras are generally permitted, but can be confiscated if abuse is suspected.

### **Visits**

- Visits are on Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00PM or Sunday, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (not both days) except by special permission. There are just two visits per month per student. No guests are allowed in any dormitory area. Visits are restricted to the Chapel, Family Room, Gazebo or the field. Visitation request must be turned in by Wednesday at 5:00 PM prior to the requested visit. All visitors must be approved by the Program Director. If you receive an unofficial visitor, they may be asked to leave. All visitors are asked to sign the visitation log in the office.
- All incoming packages will be inspected by a staff member in front of the receiving student.
- Finally, visitation privileges may be revoked at any time. All visits and passes will be canceled if you are on disciplined status.

- Students may not participate in another person's visit.

### **Class and Study Hall**

- Each student is expected to complete all class assignments on time and is expected to arrive at classes prior to the scheduled starting time. You should be in your seat and ready for work at the beginning of the class period.
- Do not use study time to write letters, to draw, to visit, etc. If you finish the work assigned, inform the instructor and he will provide more material for you. No talking is permitted in study hall without permission.
- No drinks or snacks of any kind are allowed during classes.
- Talking is not allowed in class, unless you are responding to a question asked by the teacher. Otherwise, BE QUIET and concentrate on the lecture or studies. Remember, you will be tested on the material presented in class and may have pop quizzes.
- You may be charged for the materials that you lose.

### **Scripture Memory**

- Scripture verses will be assigned to every student on a regular basis. You will be responsible to learn all of the verses you are given no excuses will be accepted. You may be asked to give verses at anytime. (This also includes Second Phase students).

### **Work**

- Each student is required to do regular work duties. You should accept your assignment as an adult; complaints will not be condoned. Job duties for each student will be announced and posted each week (if you do not have a job you must notify the staff on duty). If you complete a task early you are responsible to find the staff on duty and request further assignment. If duties are not completed properly, some form of consequences will be given out. You are not to be in your rooms during work times. You will receive a grade for your work.
- If you are written up for any reason, don't complain about it, or criticize the staff--he knows his job. We prefer that you will receive the correction like an adult, and improve in that area the next time.
- On workdays in the community, or at any other locations, you will be expected to behave as a representative of Teen Challenge and will be responsible to report to the work supervisor for your particular assignment. Any money that is paid for work done by students will come to Teen Challenge as a part of the ongoing support of the ministry.

### **Medication**

- The Program Director or his designee must approve all medication. Do not purchase over the counter (O.T.C.) medicine, unless you have obtained staff permission first. The staff will dispense all O.T.C. medication and prescription medicines. Medicine of any

kind, including aspirin, cough syrup, etc. may not be kept in your room. Violations of this rule may result in discipline, and possible expulsion from the program.

### **Boundaries**

- All offices, the kitchen, the pantry, and shop areas are **off limits** to students, unless assigned to work there. You must knock and receive permission to enter all offices. DO NOT just walk in. No one is allowed in the main office building without permission from the staff on duty, you must have permission **before** you go to the offices. Also, be sure that you have a valid and worthwhile reason to go.
- You are not allowed across the sidewalk that runs in front of the classroom. No one is to be in any buildings (including the class room) at any time without permission. The only exceptions are your dorm room and the dining area. The field is off limits except by permission of staff on duty. The only areas outside you are allowed to be is the parking lot area unless you are assigned to be somewhere else. No first phase students are allowed in the second phase areas unless assigned to work there or by special permission.
- **No communications between male and female students are allowed at anytime whatsoever.**

### **Off Campus Privileges**

- Any time a student leaves the campus he must have a staff member or intern (or an individual assigned by staff) to accompany him to and from any destination. This includes trips for shopping, dentist, doctor, hospital, probation/parole officers, or any other place.
- This time away must be approved in advance by the Program Director. The costs involved for transportation for the student and his escort shall be provided by the student who wants to leave the campus.

### **Discipline**

- Discipline is given in the form of consequences when a student violates the rules or manifests an inappropriate attitude in any given situation or fails to keep up with academics. Consequences consist of losing specific privileges and/or an additional increase in work assignments. During the time the student is on discipline all passes and visits will be canceled. Also phone and mail privileges may be curtailed. All TV, Games, Sports, etc. are not allowed while on discipline. The person on discipline is not allowed in the areas of recreation.
- Violation of certain rules such as fighting, the possession of drugs, cigarettes, attempting to get high, or lying may result in dismissal.

### **Rules & Types of Passes**

- Residents must be in Second Phase or have special approval to qualify for a pass.
- A total of only one pass of any kind is allowed per month.

- All passes are to be with immediate family members only (same as phone list)
- No passes are allowed from Thanksgiving until after Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Resident is not to visit with old friends that are not Christians.
- Residents are required to attend a Christian church if pass happens on a Sunday, or Wednesday.
- All Teen Challenge of Texas rules are effective while a student is on pass.
- Residents will not be considered for a pass if they are currently on a discipline status. Residents also must be up-to-date on all scholastic requirements.
- Residents shall have the responsibility of securing transportation and planning of passes.
- Only one three-day pass and only one five-day pass are allowed for each resident during their stay.
- On return from pass a resident may be subject to search and testing.
- Day Pass - One 8-hour Day-Pass (for a Saturday or Sunday) may be issued per month at the discretion of the Program Director. The pass will begin at 9:00am and end at 5:00pm of the same day. Resident is not allowed to travel out of the vicinity during this pass. Director must approve all exceptions.
- Weekend Pass (For Married Couples Only) - Weekend passes will begin on Saturday, no earlier than 9:00am, until Sunday at 5:00pm.
- Three-Day Pass - (only 2 nights) To begin after 9:00am on the first day and end at 5:00pm (or earlier) on the third day. (Only one 3 day pass per person is allowed) -- Resident must be in their eight month or later to qualify for a 3-day pass.
- Five-Day Passes - (only 4 nights) to begin after 9:00am on the first day and end at 5:00pm on the fifth day. (Only one 5- day pass per person is allowed) – Resident must be in their eleventh month or later to qualify for a 5-day pass.
- Emergency Passes - Duration to be determined by staff. Resident must submit an emergency pass form to the office. Emergency passes shall be considered only in cases extreme emergency situations.
- Length of stay in Center will be a determining factor as to whether a resident will be accompanied by staff member or not.

#### **A Final Reminder...**

- Always be aware of the fact that you came to us for help. You sought us out in your time of need. We did not come to you. Therefore, you have, in effect, submitted yourself totally to all that this program entails. This means that complaining, whining, etc. about any part of this program that you disagree with or do not understand the reasoning behind, cannot and will not be tolerated, either verbally or non-verbally.
- If this program is not to your liking, remember that you are always free to leave. If, however, it is your desire to stay and grow within the limits set for you, then do so in an adult manner without fretting or fussing. The staff will always be available to help you in

any manner that they are able. Please take advantage of their counsel and experience. We encourage you to dedicate yourself to the Lord while you are here remembering that “God rewards those who diligently seek Him” Hebrews 11:6. It's your time - do not waste it.

**STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Rules for Acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to Race, Color, Age, Sex, Disability, Religious Creed, National origin or Political belief.

I also understand that should I decide to dismiss myself I will be taken to the bus stop. Also I must wait for approval of the appropriate staff for use of this service. Should I leave before or after normal office hours (Mon-Fri/9:00-5:00) I will not be able to get money from my account. I will leave a forwarding address to have any money mailed to. I also understand the cost of the money order, stamp, envelope and 1 hour of staff time will be charged. I also understand should my account be less than all monies needed to complete this transaction the money be forfeited. I also understand that once the decision is made to leave for any reason I will have no more than one hour to be packed and off campus and will not be allowed to go and talk to others students. I also understand that I cannot receive money from anyone for any reason that is at Teen Challenge. Any personal items not taken will become the property of Teen Challenge unless arrangements are made to pick them up with in 24 hours of departure.

I also understand and agree that I will not hold Teen Challenge responsible for any loss of personal items at any time.

I understand that if I receive a monthly income from any source that 70% will go to Teen Challenge (whether or not the check comes to Teen Challenge).

I understand I will apply for food stamps while a resident at Teen Challenge.

I understand that the program is a minimum 13 months, usually longer. I also understand that the second phase of the program is a minimum of eight months regardless of the time spent in first phase.

I agree to complete the entire program.

Once you decide to leave or are dismissed you must receive prior approval to come back on campus each visit that you make.

Should the application fee not be paid upon entry into the program, I understand that I am responsible for the fee when I am able to pay.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have received a copy of the student rules; I have read and understand them. I agree to abide by the rules as stated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date