

First United Methodist Church
72 Lake Morton Drive
Lakeland, Florida 33801

Neighborhood Ministries
Policies Regarding Behavior and Consequences

The 4 rules of Neighborhood Ministries:

1. Please God!
2. Follow Directions.
3. Be Respectful toward Staff, each other and self.
4. Be Kind.

For Clubhouse & Outreach Florida, consequences are handed out on a “light” system. The lights are progressively given out on behavior. Blue light = No problems, Green light = A warning was given out, Yellow light = A warning was not heeded and a rule was broken, and a Red light = Repeated problems with behavior that day. Each day every child starts with a blue light with the goal to stay on blue the entire day.

Consequences will be a change in the “light” of the child who chooses not to abide by the rules. Green light results in the child losing some of the daily points and not receiving the “treat” for the day. Yellow light results in the loss of more points and the child not receiving the “treat” for the day. Red light results in no “treat,” a consultation with their parent or guardian, and sitting on time out with an staff member of assistant during the next field trip or Friday activity. At the end of each day, we ask that you inquire as to the light of your child/ren and provide reinforcement from home.

Occasionally we have a “repeat offender,” meaning a child that chooses not to abide by the rules and receives a red light more than once in a day or week. At that time, we find that it is most effective to speak with the parent or guardian and have the child stay away from Neighborhood Ministries for a day or the remainder of the week. We have found that by working with the parents like this, they can hand out the most effective discipline, as they know their child better than anyone.

The only other cause for temporary or permanent dismissal from the program would be endangering the welfare of others. We realize that sometimes children fight and we would never dismiss a child from the program for one slip up; however, should a child continue to “bully” or pick fights and arguments, s/he will be asked to leave the program for the safety and happiness of the other children.

In Club Christ, we feel the youth are more responsible and aware of the rules and regulations. We also have a zero tolerance for foul language and disrespect. We have created a "mark system" which penalizes the wrong and rewards those with good behavior. Each week the youth start with a blank slate. If a youth is heard having inappropriate discussions, using foul language, or disrespecting a staff member, the youth is given a mark. If a youth is given three marks in a day, the youth is immediately asked to leave the property and their parents are called. The youth is allowed to return to the program the following day, with an apology but if any additional marks are given that week, they will be asked to leave again. Club Christ staff holds the right to enforce a longer period of suspension consequent of the youth’s behavior. Marks are based on a point system and for a youth to be eligible to attend summer camp, or any special trips, s/he must meet a minimum average requirement of four points. Good behavior and minimal marks are rewarded at the end of the week and year with special prizes.

There is a zero tolerance level regarding youth fighting. Should a youth “bully” or pick fights and arguments with other youth, s/he will be asked to leave the program for the safety and happiness of the others. The consequence of any physical fighting is an automatic suspension from the program with an apology upon return. A meeting may also be required by the youth involved and their parents to resolve the situation.

We hope that you find this informational sheet helpful. Should there be any questions please don’t hesitate to call us at the Neighborhood Ministries Office ~ 686-0855.