

## Young Neighbors in Action Adult Pledge of Support

One of the greatest strengths of the *Young Neighbors* experience is the commitment and enthusiasm of the adult team participants. This *Pledge of Support* has been developed to help adults understand what is expected of them during the week and to help insure that the service-learning experience is healthy and growth-filled for everyone involved.

Everyone who takes part in *Young Neighbors*—youth and adult alike—is viewed as a program participant and is expected to abide by the rules laid out in the *Code of Behavior*. Team Leaders and adult participants play a crucial role in helping youth to understand the rationale and spirit behind the *Code* and to honor the commitments embodied in it. This *Pledge* assumes that you have carefully read through and are willing to support the policies articulated in the *Code*.

- *I understand and am in compliance with my local (arch)diocesan safe environment policies.*
- *I understand that the Team Leader and adult participants maintain primary responsibility for their young people, both at work sites and at the program facility. I support the full, on-time participation of team members in program activities and will actively promote the compliance of team members with all program rules and regulations.*
- *I understand that youth participants must be accompanied by an adult member of their team any time they travel beyond the program facility.*
- *I understand that respect for others is essential to community life and that this fundamental respect extends to all dimensions of another's being (including sexuality, ethnicity, religious belief, etc.). I will model this respect in my dealings with others and work to create a climate of respect and dignity among the members of my team.*
- I understand that harassment, abuse, and discrimination violate the basic principles upon which this program is founded and that such behavior cannot be tolerated from anyone associated with the program—in words, signs or actions.
- I understand that any charge of abuse or harassment must be investigated and understand that it can necessitate immediate dismissal of anyone so charged.
- *I understand that our parish or school will be held responsible for any damage done to the housing or work facilities by our team members.*
- *I understand that smoking is discouraged for all participants and is allowable for young people only with an authorizing letter from their parent or guardian. I will not purchase tobacco or tobacco products for others. If I am a smoker, I will refrain as much as possible from smoking during the program.*
- I understand that all prescription medication will remain in the hands of the Team Leader and that only the Team Leader, with parent's approval, may administer prescription or non-prescription medication to youth participants.
- For the health and safety of all involved, I will voluntarily abstain from the use of alcohol for the duration of the program.
- I agree to obtain the consent of both the Parish Team Leader and the Program Director before doing anything that contradicts the rules and regulations of the *Young Neighbors in Action* program – either as stated above or as directed by the Program Director.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: **The Leader of your parish or school *Young Neighbors in Action* Team.**