

## GUIDELINES FOR SENDING A YOUNG PERSON HOME

### Preface:

Occasionally it is necessary to send a young person home from an event because of his or her behavior. If, for instance, the rules clearly state (as the Code of Conduct, Form G, does in fact state) that boys and girls are not allowed in each other's sleeping rooms, and you find that some boys (or girls) have left their own rooms in the middle of the night and are "hanging out" in the girls' (or boys') rooms, the event leader should send those involved home. They have clearly violated the Code of Conduct. This checklist will help you handle such a situation effectively and pastorally.

- If the action in question is illegal in nature, the event leader must notify the authorities and separate the young people from the rest of the group before contacting the parents.
- NOTE: A pastoral response is paramount. If the behavior occurs in the middle of the night, for instance, it would be appropriate to wait until morning to deal with the consequences, so long as the event leader has addressed the action and informed the young people of the consequences.
- Adult leaders should treat the young people as the gifts from God they are and make every effort to ensure that nothing is said or done by the adults or other participants to cause embarrassment or humiliation for the young people who face expulsion from the event. In addition, adults must refrain from joking about the behavior in question with other adults or with young people.
- The event leader and the young person (people) should discuss the Code of Conduct violation. It is appropriate to seek an explanation for the behavior and to discuss the implications of that behavior on the rest of the group, the event, the reputation of the parish/school, etc.
- The event leader and other adults should discuss the infraction to ensure that the facts of the situation are accurate. Only the facts, and not opinions, frustration, or anger, are to be part of the discussion.
- The event leader should call the young person's parents and inform the parents to pick up their child/ren as soon as possible. As a general rule, refunds are not offered to young people who are sent home.
- When the parents arrive, the young person should be with the event leader when the event leader meets the parents. The young person should be a part of the conversation that ensues unless the parent asks the young person to remove him/herself.
- The event leader should encourage parents to discuss the situation with their child/ren. The parents and/or event leader should encourage the child to consider apologizing to the rest of the group and to adult leaders at a later date. The young person should be encouraged to return to future events.