

PVUMC Youth Music COVENANT

The purpose of this covenant is to help all members understand the expectations and share in the responsibilities given to us as we meet each week for rehearsals, and as we present our music to God during worship. The Paradise Valley United Methodist Youth Choir is open to any 7th – 12th grade youth who wishes to participate and agrees to follow the policies listed below. Signing this Covenant form by **both** the youth and a parent is an indication that you respect the time and talent that God has provided in order that we may offer our best to God in rehearsals, worship, or anywhere we may travel together as members of the PVUMC Youth Choir.

- I will make rehearsals a priority in my schedule as this is a ministry and it deserves that commitment.
- I will be on time to rehearsals.
- If necessary, I will commit to spending time outside of our rehearsal times to learn and memorize our music.
- I will have all music memorized and ready to present prior to our scheduled singing times.
- I will maximize our rehearsal times by placing my focus on what we are singing. (That doesn't mean we won't have fun, it just means that when it's time to get serious we will get serious).
- I will commit to praying for this ministry of our church.
- I will treat this ministry with the seriousness that it deserves.
- I will treat others in the Youth Choir with respect and grace.
- I will be inclusive of others even if they are different than me.

Because our group is so large and rehearsal time is so limited, we ask for cooperation and respect from all youth during rehearsals. This will allow the choir director to maximize the use of everyone's time and help ensure each rehearsal ends on time. **During rehearsals**, these are expected of each choir member:

1. Please keep unnecessary talking to a minimum.
2. Each youth choir member is assigned a folder and music slot, and is responsible for keeping music up to date and his/her folder neat. Lost or damaged music should be replaced at the youth's expense.
3. Cell phones should remain off during rehearsals and worship services (no text messaging).
4. Please bring a sharpened pencil to each rehearsal. Have your sheet music and pencil ready to sing your best.
5. Please leave gum and food outside. It is okay to bring a water bottle into rehearsal.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

We are grateful for your commitment to this ministry. We do understand you have a life outside of choir! Homework, family, friends, school, illnesses, holidays, and sports will sometimes interfere with the choir schedule. That's okay! Come when you are able! Please know that you are welcome in the PVUMC Youth Choir. We love visitors, too!

However, **to go on the summer Youth Choir Tour, you must meet the following requirement:**



You must have no more than 5 absences per semester (10 all year)



Why? The Youth Choir Tour is designed to reward those who have faithfully served during the year, to motivate and encourage commitment, to build fellowship within the group, and to spread the love of God through music as we travel. Therefore, regular attendance at all rehearsals and Sunday worship services is expected for those going on the trip. Each week, attendance is recorded at the beginning of rehearsal by parent volunteers, and each youth is responsible for making sure his/her attendance record is correct throughout the year. **Attendance will be a factor in determining eligibility for special singing and speaking parts.** *If you have a conflict that prevents you from meeting the attendance requirement, please talk to the director before the conflict occurs.* Discussion with the director could result in extra make-up opportunities for the choir member. If everyone gives their best gifts of time and talent during rehearsals, the youth choir will sound its best to glorify God, who deserves the very best we can offer.

For ADULTS who wish to be CHAPERONES for Choir Tour:

To go on Choir Tour, a chaperone...

- ... must be helpful,*
- ... get along well with the youth, adults, and directors,*
- ... enforce the rules without favoritism or bias,*
- ... must be a good Christian example for the youth,*
- ... must be willing to carry equipment, help w/ meals, and endure chaos with little sleep.*

Who gets to go???

Most needed are seasoned chaperones who know the youth by name and who know the routines of our choir tour. We also need new chaperones to learn the ropes as the older ones retire. Being involved as a Youth Choir Parent Volunteer (see attached volunteer form) is the best way to get to know the youth and prepare for tour. Chaperones do not have to be a parent of an active youth to be eligible.

As per the Safe Sanctuary Policy of Paradise Valley United Methodist Church, all chaperones must be a member for at least six months, must be at least 5 years older than the youth, must be trained yearly on the rules of the policy, and must pass a background check.

How Many chaperones will go?

It depends on how many youth go on the trip. We generally bring 1 chaperone per 5 youth (1:5 ratio).

When are Choir Tour Counselors selected?

Choir Tour registration will be in January with sign-ups at the Parents Meeting (date TBA). Counselors will be notified in March.

Is there something I can do to increase my chances?

Yes, become a Youth Choir Parent Volunteer (form attached) and come to youth music rehearsals and programs. Be helpful. If you see a problem, try to fix it. If you see something that needs to be done, step up and do it.

How much does it cost?

This year our costs will be very different due to the potential combined Youth Choir Tour and Youth Mission Trip. These costs will be made clear later in the year. We are doing what we can to keep the cost to no more than \$300. Fund Raising opportunities will be available for all youth (and possibly adults) who wish to go on the combined trip.

For ADULTS who wish to be YOUTH CHOIR COORDINATORS:

It is the desire of the directors that the Youth Choir Coordinators take on a 3 year commitment to insure consistency among the adult leadership and smooth transition from year to year. Understandably this may not be possible for everyone so please be in communication with the directors regarding your individual situation. Being present at rehearsals will be an important part of the coordinators role. In addition the Youth Choir Coordinators will be responsible for helping in the following ways:

- helping younger or new members get organized and feel welcome
- organize music folders and music
- assisting the youth with music maintenance
- repairing or replacing damaged music or folders
- taking attendance
- assisting with crowd control
- follow up with youth who missed rehearsal
- passing out weekly information

This portion to be completed by a PARENT/GUARDIAN:

As a **parent/guardian** of _____, I hereby give permission for my youth to be a part of this ministry. My youth understands and will follow the rules and abide by the covenant on the other side of this page.

- Photos of my youth in this program may be used for church publicity.
- I give permission for my youth to go on church-related trips using church transportation.
- In the event of a medical emergency and I cannot be reached, I give permission for my youth to receive medical treatment.
- Any youth who fails to abide by the rules on church-related trips will be sent home immediately at the expense of their parents. If unplanned circumstances or emergencies should occur, the youth's parents will be responsible for any additional expenses.
- I release the Paradise Valley United Methodist Church and all employees from all liability if my youth is accidentally injured on church property or while on a church-related trip.

I would like to be considered for a Youth Choir Coordinator

I would like to be considered for Choir Tour Chaperone

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

This portion to be completed by Youth :

As a member of the Youth Choir I, _____, have read and understand my responsibilities within the choir. I will do my best to keep the covenant I have made with the other members of the Youth Choir, my parents/guardians, and the directors.

Youth Signature _____ Date _____

Youth Printed Name _____