

# the underground

## Meeting with Students Outside of Regular Programming

### Connecting Outside of Regular Programs

We encourage leaders to connect with the UNDERGROUND students on a regular basis, which sometimes means in-person check-ins and meetings outside of regular ministry programming. When a staff member or volunteer recognizes the need to meet with a student, including Video Calls (Skype, FaceTime etc), written or verbal consent from the parent / guardian must be obtained prior to the meeting. The appropriate ministry staff will be informed of all meetings in advance (for volunteers this is the site youth coordinator; for staff this is the direct supervisor). Leaders of children grade 5 or younger will not meet with individual students.

### Small Group Events & 1:1's

Small group activities are encouraged. Parents will be informed of all details and appropriate event forms must be used. It is always recommended that students meet leaders at the designated meeting location. When this is not possible leaders may drive students with parent/guardian consent and following the driving policies on page 14 of Plan to Protect.

It is always recommended that meetings with students in grades 6-12 include at least three people (two leaders with an individual student or two students with one leader) but we recognize that on occasion a 1:1 meeting with a leader and student is appropriate.

Leaders of students in grades 6-12 will abide by the following policies when meeting with students:

- Leaders will inform their Youth Coordinator or Lead Pastor of the meeting time, location, and people involved in advance.
- Leaders involved must be security cleared.
- Meetings must take place in a public space and be clearly visible to other adults.
- Parents must be notified, and give consent, prior to each outing.
- If a leader must drive a student to/from a meeting, the appropriate driving policies must be followed. (see pg 14 of Plan to Protect)
- A male small group leader will never meet alone with one or more female students for any reason. A female small group leader will never meet alone with one or more male students for any reason.
- Consent by the supervising ministry staff must be given for each meeting between a youth coordinator and one or more students of the opposite gender.