

## **Cottage Cove Student Participation Covenant (Grade 4 and up)**

### Overview

Cottage Cove Urban Ministries provides a safe environment wherein we provide educational, arts, life skills, and recreational opportunities. As a Christian program we hold Bible Study and exemplifying Christian principles and morals in highest regard. Participating in our activities and programs is a revocable privilege that we grant at our discretion. Any actions or recurring behavior that affects our ability to provide the services and program we deem necessary, or failure to follow through with what you agree to below, is sufficient grounds for us to withdraw participation in our programs, whether temporarily or permanently.

### Participant Agreement (I agree to...)

In my choosing to be a part of Cottage Cove's programs I acknowledge and agree that I will endeavor to uphold the following standards...

- I will respect the staff and volunteers who are here to help and teaching me; this includes with my words and my actions. I will not encourage others to disrespect staff and volunteers.
- I will respect what others have to say by listening when they are talking. I will allow others to speak their ideas and not distract them or take away from their ideas by talking while they are talking. I especially understand that interrupting Bible Study by inappropriate actions or words is considered a serious offense at Cottage Cove.
- I will respect other people's stuff. I will not go through, touch, or take, another's possessions without first asking and being granted their permission. Likewise, I will respect Cottage Cove's stuff and building.
- I will respect others with my words and actions. I will not use abusive words or profanity. I will not lie to or about others, and endeavor to always be truthful and genuine in my words and my actions. I will not be overly critical. I will not gossip about others in our program or their families. (We define gossip as saying anything true or false, or rumor, that causes others to lower their opinion of the person being talked about.)
- I will respect Cottage Cove's staff and volunteers, and my peers, by turning off my cell phone while at Cottage Cove – enabling me to have good personal interactions with others and to keep me from being distracted which hinders my ability to learn.
- I will respect others in the way that I dress. I understand that dressing modestly is what is expected of me.

I will respect others' bodies. I will not touch anyone without their permission, unless part of a sanctioned game or activity. I will especially refrain from all touching, acts, looks, and gestures that could be understood in a sexual manner.

I will respect the safe environment of Cottage Cove by promising that I will never bring any weapons, drugs, alcohol, fireworks or explosives, with me to any Cottage Cove event or program. To protect everyone, I will immediately inform a staff member if I become aware that someone has brought any of these items. Also, I will never threaten to harm anyone, either directly or indirectly.

I will respect Cottage Cove by following its rules, both posted and as otherwise taught. I will not show defiance to the rules or express an attitude of not caring about the rules (for example "I don't care!").

I will respect students of all ages and ethnicities at Cottage Cove. I will be accepting of others and I will take them as they come, knowing that they may come from a different background than me because this is what Jesus has asked of us. I know that God created us as unique individuals, and I will respect that uniqueness in others. I will not mock or single out anyone for their appearance, weaknesses, or mannerisms; rather I will work to help and encourage them.

Because I am a youth, I understand that I do not have to be responsible for enforcing Cottage Cove's rules. I understand that is the responsibility of all of the adults present, not me. I will, however, be an example to others and especially to those younger than me.

I understand that Cottage Cove's staff and volunteers are entrusted with my wellbeing. If I fail to respond positively to their commands and they view my actions as a potential threat to my own wellbeing – or the wellbeing of other students, or volunteers, or staff – they will physically stop my actions where possible. Yet, I also understand that if any staff member feels threatened and unable to control me, they will call the police for the safety of everyone at Cottage Cove.

As an important part of Cottage Cove Urban Ministries, I commit myself to this covenant. I also understand that there will be consequences to any inappropriate behavior. Consequences may include lost free time, lost store, lost trust credits, and lost privileges (both in regards to regular program or field trip eligibility). Consequences for more serious offenses may extend to a lost day or suspension from the program. This latter consequence may be permanent at Cottage Cove's discretion.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by, Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_