

SAMPLE Social Media Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide helpful guidance for district and local staff, youth leaders, and other volunteers of **CHURCH/DISTRICT NAME**. **CHURCH/DISTRICT NAME** defines social media as online tools designed to share thoughts, images, videos, and audio clips. Examples of these tools include: message boards, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, podcasts, Snapchat and YouTube.

CHURCH/DISTRICT NAME defines posts as any comments, photos, messages, or similar social media interactions.

CHURCH/DISTRICT NAME staff, youth leaders, and other volunteers should:

- Understand that when engaging on social media people may assume that you are speaking on behalf of the local church and/or the district. Guarding your own reputation, as well as the reputation of your church/district should be a priority in all social media posts.
- Respect time of day when engaging youth on social media. Late night posts could be viewed as violating healthy relationship boundaries, especially between youth and adults.
- Be mindful of the nature of your posts. Posts should align with the values of **CHURCH/DISTRICT NAME** and the Church of the Nazarene, Inc. Even posts that are intended to be lighthearted can be inappropriate.
- Assume that everything shared through social media is permanent and public, even if shared privately or as disappearing content.
- Always respect the privacy of others. Information shared in private should never be disclosed, even as a prayer request, without proper permission.
- Report threatening or illegal posts shared through social media to church leaders (according to state laws, Ministry Safe guidelines, and church policies.)

This social media policy is designed to provide guidelines for church staff, youth leaders, and volunteers in creating an environment of healthy social media communication.

Failure to follow these guidelines could result in the following consequences:

- A warning delivered by the appropriate church leader.
- A meeting with all parties involved, including student(s) and parent(s), to assess both the impact of the communication and appropriate action.
- If needed, consultation with church leaders, the District NYI Council, and/or legal entities to determine possible consequences and redemptive actions of social media conduct deemed inappropriate.