



## YSO Policy: Sexuality and the Community

This policy is from a Unitarian Universalist youth group Code of Ethics. For this policy, BE SAFE recommends the following:

- Use this *Code of Ethics* to develop procedures that specifically address boundaries, or use this *Code* in addition to and attached to a Boundaries policy.

### Policy:

Sexuality is a healthy and important part of young people's lives. Conferences are an opportunity for youth to express themselves in healthy ways. Exclusive relationships detract from the community. All members of the community must respect each other's physical boundaries. Inappropriate behavior (i.e. sexual harassment) is not permitted. Parents/guardians are invited to discuss this policy with youth.

### Code of Ethics for Adults

Adults are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of both individuals and the community. It is, therefore especially important that adults be qualified to provide the special nurture, care, and support that will enable youth to develop a positive sense of self and responsibility. The relation between young people and adults must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential of their relationship is to be realized. There are no more important areas of growth than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting youth in these areas of growth. Wisdom dictates that youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care; therefore, leaders will refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with youth which constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse. Leaders shall be informed of the code of ethics and agree to it before assuming their role. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.

### Code of Ethics for Youth In Leadership Positions

Youth in leadership positions are uniquely visible and influential in any conference community. They should recognize that power imbalances exist in their interactions with other conferees. Inappropriate sexual behavior is never acceptable; additionally, youth leaders should remain aware of the impact of their actions and behave accordingly. Youth who abuse their roles as leaders, consciously or not, can damage individuals and the community. Youth leaders are expected to use their influence in a positive manner.

