



The Frederick Center Youth Group Summary

To make The Frederick Center (TFC) Youth Group experience a safe and effective space for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) youth, we ask that participating youth, parents, guardians, and families read and follow these guidelines:

Participant Eligibility

Youth Group participants are to be LGBTQ and high school or college age, which means 14 to 22 years old. Age exceptions can occur only by approval of the Program Coordinator, as topics and group dynamics are geared to this age range. All participants must abide by TFC Participant Policies, which covers code of conduct and more: <http://www.thefrederickcenter.org/home/about>. There is no fee to attend. Youth allies are allowed when accompanying a LGBTQ youth.

Adult Leaders

1. Youth Group meetings are structured to have at least three adults (21+) present who have the roles of:
 - a. Meeting Facilitator
 - b. Food organizer
 - c. Chaperone; on some weeks a counselor may be the chaperone.
2. At least one of these adults has undergone a criminal background check and is designated as a Supervisor of Minors by The Frederick Center.
3. Adult leaders must comply with the TFC Volunteer Policies, as well as enforce TFC Participant and General Operating policies: <http://www.thefrederickcenter.org/home/about>

Youth Group Meetings

1. Unless a meeting is cancelled and this is communicated in advance, the Youth Group meets every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Grace United Church of Christ. We are not a religious program; we simply use space that is located at 25 East Second Street, Frederick, MD 21701. The entrance is the side door at the end of the walkway on the left of the church building as you face the church. The Youth Group meets downstairs unless otherwise notified.
2. Attendees should arrive at the group no earlier than 15 minutes before the 7:00pm scheduled start. A simple sign-in sheet to quantify participants may be used.
3. Snacks and beverages are usually provided.
4. At the first meeting a youth attends, the youth must complete an Emergency Contact Form and sign a Confidentiality Agreement that is kept on file with the Youth Group Coordinator. In the event that the youth becomes ill or hurt, or is assessed by the adults on hand to be ill or hurt, the adult leaders will use the contacts provided and/or contact medical/police authorities depending on the urgency.
5. At the start of each meeting, the Program Facilitator will ask the group to share their:
 - a. Preferred name
 - b. Preferred pronoun
 - c. Sexual orientation, if comfortable sharing

6. Minors under 18 years of age going to the bathroom must be escorted to the bathroom door by at least 2 adults (18+) from the group and/or chaperones.
 - a. Minors under 18 years of age going to the bathroom must be escorted to the bathroom door by at least 2 adults (18+) from the group and/or adult chaperones.
7. A counselor may be involved with the Youth Group. The counselor is not asked, nor ethically able, to undertake one-on-one counseling; they only lead group discussions and exercises.
8. All Youth Group discussions are confidential. No notes, recordings, videos, or transcriptions of discussions are made. Unless there is a legal reason to do so (e.g, the youth expresses a suicidal intent or reports being molested), The Frederick Center will not share youth information with parents, guardians, or legal authorities.
9. Though not required nor forbidden, parents and guardians may attend some or all Youth Group meetings their child attends. Any parent or guardian who is attending a meeting will be invited to remain in an adjacent room separated by an open door and away from the youth discussion circle. It is not appropriate for the attending parent or guardian to be involved with Youth Group discussions unless the Meeting Facilitator asks for this interaction. It is highly recommended that guardians of minors remain in the building during the first meeting their child attends.
10. Both youth members and any accompanying adults are discouraged from bringing other children under the age of 14 to Youth Group meetings because these children can be disruptive. Unrelated adults/friends over 22 are not to remain anywhere within the Youth Group facility.
11. At the end of the meeting, attendees will be asked to:
 - a. Clean up the meeting area
 - b. Depart meeting premises in a quiet and prompt manner
 - c. Wait in front of meeting premises for their parents/guardians to pick them up. It is the responsibility of parents/guardian of minors to do so by the scheduled end time of the meeting (typically 8:30 pm). TFC does not transport attendees.

Electronic Interaction

1. Direct questions to youthgroup@thefrederickcenter.org. If you would like to speak with someone, include your phone number along with a preferred time and someone will call you.
2. Youth specific Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheFrederickCenterYouth
3. Text message meeting reminders: text @fredcenter to 81010
4. TFC general Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheFrederickCenter
5. TFC general newsletter mailing list: Self-signup at www.thefrederickcenter.org/join-us