

Summit Youth Group Covenant

Our Purpose: to create an inclusive community through intentional action in which we can expand our spiritual and intellectual horizons.

I covenant with the community to take these actions:

- 1) Expand my experience by connecting with people I don't know well and with whom I might not normally engage. Although I enjoy spending time with my friends, my goal is to become more connected to our community by forming new relationships.
- 2) Actively seek out people who are not engaged in the community and intentionally include them, not just by inviting them into my proximity but also by engaging them in conversation, etc.
- 3) Take care of my personal needs (sleep, alone time, etc) so that I can give my best self to the community. I understand that my full participation is needed to create a loving and supportive community, but also that my personal boundaries and needs are respected by the community.
- 4) Become more aware of my own prejudices and judgments in my interaction with others and actively work to confront and overcome them. I will be aware of power dynamics within the community and will work to give everyone an equal share of the community I am helping to build. If someone expresses a view with which I disagree, I will listen and ask questions in an attempt to understand his/her/zir point of view without malice or forceful projection of my opinions.

I covenant to abstain from these actions that detract from our goal:

- Exclusive behavior, such as spending excessive amounts of time with the same people, is detrimental to the community and can be seen as being "cliquey." Exclusive behavior prevents our community from being an open, welcoming, and safe space for all, especially for those who have no other safe space in their lives. When thinking about how I can be inclusive, I will remind myself of those times in my life when I have felt like an outsider looking in.
- Although romantic affection is permitted on the condition that it does not make others feel uncomfortable, sexual behavior below the neck is not permitted. As a community we recognize that sexuality is a healthy part of the human experience. However, sexual behavior can hinder our efforts to build an inclusive community, just like any other exclusive behavior, by making others feel uncomfortable.
- Possession, use, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol is prohibited.
- Violence, abuse, or harassment (physical, verbal, sexual, etc) is prohibited. Weapons are not permitted.

It is the responsibility of every Youth Group member to uphold the covenant. I understand that if I break this covenant, there will be consequences. If I have knowledge that the covenant has been broken, it is also my responsibility to inform the youth co-leaders and the youth advisors for the well being of the community.

Signature: _____ Date: _____