

Policies and Procedures for Florida Beacon

Article I: Name and Purpose

1. This organization shall be known as Florida Beacon (abbreviated "FLB").
2. Mission Statement: Beacon is a safe and sacred space in which youth find their voices and share their minds; while building community through youth empowerment.
3. Youth empowerment is when youth and advisors have a respectful relationship where both the youth and the advisor have equal power and acknowledge each other's power but the advisor chooses to not use the power they hold and let the youth take charge and own both their successes and their failures.

Article II: Beacon Chapters

1. A Beacon chapter is the local part of the larger FLB community.
2. A Beacon chapter shall be defined as at least one youth (12 to 20 years of age, inclusive) and at least one FLB trained advisor (25 years of age or older; see Article III).
3. Each chapter must be associated with a Unitarian Universalist congregation;
4. Will strive for youth empowerment within the chapter.

Article III: Advisors

1. All advisors attending CONs must have completed Florida Advisor Training or have made arrangements with the Adult co-chair to receive training at the CON.
2. Advisor training includes: maintaining appropriate boundaries; keeping the youth group safe physically, emotionally, sexually, and spiritually; and building community within the group.
3. The primary responsibility of advisors is to ensure the safety and supervision of all Beacon youth.
4. Advisors are mandated to report issues of health and safety risks to parents or other required authorities.
5. Advisors are adult members of the Beacon community whose voices carry the same weight as the youth.
6. Advisors must be at least 25 years of age.

Article IV: Rules

1. These rules apply at Florida Beacon events.
 - a. An FLB event shall be defined as events that are open to all Florida Beacon members.
2. Members of Florida Beacon will abide by all federal and state laws.
3. All attending the Youth conference, regardless of age, must abide by these rules, understanding that they may have to forego some of their usual privileges.
 - a. Additional rules may be set by the hosting chapter.
 - b. The purpose of these rules is to ensure a safe environment which is conducive to community building.
4. Behaviors generally regarded as community breaking are not allowed.
 - a. Exclusive use of electronics *is* considered community breaking.

5. A youth may not be out of sight of an advisor with a single Beacon member (youth or advisor).
6. There must be at least one advisor for every eight youth.
7. Unless there is a safety issue, advisors shall initially defer conflicts to be resolved by the youth.
8. Sexual activity is prohibited.
9. No tobacco products, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, lighters, or fireworks are allowed.
 - a. Lighters may be used to light chalices, if the hosting church allows it.
10. Attendees must respect the property of others.
11. If a youth is taking prescription medication or has a medical condition, he or she must inform his or her advisor.
12. A quiet coed sleeping area must be made available at all conferences. Upon request, the host church will also provide quiet same-gender or same-sex sleeping areas.
13. An advisor must stay in any sleeping area where there are two or more people.
14. There is no sharing of blankets; one person per blanket/sleeping bag.
15. All youth attending the conference must remain onsite unless they receive permission from their home-church advisor and inform a designated advisor from the hosting church.
16. Absolutely no nuts are permitted. This includes all nuts, nut butters, oils, flours, or products that may contain nuts or traces of nuts.
 - a. All food must be placed on a checking table before they are allowed into the event.
17. No youth may transport themselves or any other youth to or from a Florida Beacon event that is not at their home church.
18. A completed and notarized (if applicable) form is needed for advisors to transport youth to FLB events before leaving for the event.
19. Parent permission is needed for one advisor to transport one youth unless the youth is aged 18 or older.
 - a. For both the youth's and advisor's protection, it is recommended that a single adult and a single youth not travel alone.
20. All travelers shall have documentation of health insurance with them (provided they have health insurance) before leaving for the event.
21. All drivers must have active car insurance.

Last revised April 2015