

# **SCYP CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Reviewed October 2013**

The Sydney Christadelphian Young People (SCYP) is a Christ-centred youth group that aims to assist any person aged 13 to 30 live a purpose-driven God filled life. The activities of the SCYP are organised and facilitated by volunteering young people from the NSW/ACT Christadelphian community. Events typically occur on the first and third Saturday of every month excluding January. The management committee meet formally on the Monday before the first Saturday of the month except in January.

There are hosts present at all official SCYP events and meetings. Hosts refer to those individuals who have been nominated by an ecclesia in NSW or ACT and endorsed by the NSW Christadelphian Committee (NCC) to oversee SCYP activities. It is the expectation of SCYP attendees that these hosts will be able to interact with young people. Their role involves mentoring committee members, supporting any young person attending an SCYP activity and ensuring that the codes of conduct are maintained. Hosts will also have been cleared for Working With Children by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian before receiving endorsement by the NCC.

These Codes of Conduct are accessible on the SCYP website ([www.scyp.net](http://www.scyp.net)) with a copy given to the NSW Christadelphian Committee.

These Codes should be issued to all new committee members and hosts.

## **SCYP CODE OF CONDUCT (GENERAL)**

Outlined within this code of conduct is a set of guidelines that seek to ensure the physical and spiritual wellbeing of all those who attend SCYP activities (attendees, volunteer committee members, and hosts). Essentially, it is a list of 'Do's' and 'Don'ts' that have been developed and accepted by those who attend SCYP.

### **DO:**

- Use SCYP activities as a chance to build a relationship with God, Jesus, hosts, and other young people.
- Treat everyone with respect and in a way you would wish to be treated (this includes all attending young people, volunteer committee members, hosts and any other person who has been invited to assist SCYP e.g. presenting speaker, caterer).
- Remember to be a positive role model for anybody around you particularly to those younger than yourself.
- Promote an inclusive attitude.
- Respect the privacy and personal space of others.
- Encourage and celebrate individuality particularly in relation to worship styles.
- Show unconditional positive regard for other SCYP attendees even if they are exhibiting challenging behaviours.
- Report any abusive or inappropriate behaviour to a host
- Arrive on time and pay on time for all SCYP events.
- Participate in all SCYP activities you attend to the best of your ability
- Participate in all formal activities at each SCYP Camp you attend
- Encourage friends and family to attend SCYP activities.
- Look for opportunities to serve and assist other young people.
- Look for opportunities to become involved in the running of SCYP by approaching a host or volunteering committee member.
- Report any concerns about the safety of individuals or an activity to a host.

### **DON'T:**

- Act or speak in any way that may make another attendee feel unsafe or unwanted.
- Encourage or engage in gossip.
- Single out another young person by mocking or ridiculing them.
- Belittle or criticise another young person for using their unique skill set or interests for God.
- Bring alcohol, cigarettes or any illicit substances to SCYP events. If you observe any SCYP attendee using any of these substances you should inform a host.
- Leave an SCYP event prior to its official finish without informing a host. It is unacceptable to tell one of your friends and/or ask them to advise a host for you.

## **SCYP CODE OF CONDUCT (COMMITTEE SPECIFIC)**

Below is a code of conduct developed specifically for volunteering SCYP committee members. This includes ecclesial delegates who are elected by the young people of their home ecclesia and endorsed by that ecclesia. Their role involves representing the ideas of their ecclesia's young people to the SCYP committee. They are also to participate in a majority vote when any person volunteers to take on an official committee role per the SCYP constitution, or when other decisions concerning the running of SCYP need to be made. All committee members and delegates are to be made aware of this guideline before beginning their role. All committee members and delegates over 18 years of age are also to have been cleared for Working With Children by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian before taking on their role.

### **DO:**

- Your best to show Jesus through your actions, appearance and speech.
- Display the same Christ-like attitude which SCYP attempts to encourage and instil in all young people that attend.
- Make it a high priority to attend and promote all SCYP events and meetings and participate fully.
- Remember to look out for new or young attendees and do your best to make them feel included.
- Make an effort to develop rapport with young people from your ecclesia so that you might represent their thoughts and concerns to the committee.
- Allow all meetings to be open to any SCYP attendee.
- Respect the opinion of other committee members, allowing others to voice their thoughts and concerns.
- Ask for guidance from the wider committee, secretary or hosts when unsure about the spiritual or activity content of an SCYP event.
- Act on any serious complaint or behaviour that you observe while at an SCYP event by recording carefully what has occurred and reporting to a host.
- Pass on all information to the young people at your ecclesia you are representing such as supper and clean up duties, and to your ecclesia's recorder

### **DON'T:**

- Forget that you are representing the standards and ideals of not only SCYP but also of God and Jesus.
- Undermine any SCYP activity or other committee member either directly or when talking with other SCYP attendees.
- Speak or dress immodestly.

- Show favouritism to any group or individual within SCYP.
- Use your involvement in the SCYP committee to push a personal agenda.
- Force any SCYP attendee to participate in an activity if for any physical, mental or spiritual reason they are not comfortable doing so. In the event of any attendee expressing discomfort, a host should be advised.
- Initiate any disciplinary action.

## **SCYP CODE OF CONDUCT (HOSTS SPECIFIC)**

Hosts are present at all official SCYP events and meetings. Their role involves mentoring committee members, supporting any young person attending an SCYP activity, and ensuring that the codes of conduct are maintained. The involvement of SCYP hosts is endorsed by the NCC. All hosts will have a current Working with Children Check number issued by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian.

Hosts are to be familiar with all the components of the SCYP and Committee Specific Code of Conduct. This separate Code of Conduct has been developed in consultation with the SCYP Committee by the 6 hosts overseeing the SCYP in 2013. Essentially, it's a list of 'Do's' and 'Don'ts' that will assist the present hosts and future hosts best fulfil their supportive and mentoring role.

While every attempt will be made to allow an SCYP attendee who has broken the code of conduct to continue to participate in the activity, an attendee who refuses to comply with a request to adjust their behaviour at an event or camp can be asked to leave. Their emergency contact person should be informed that they have been asked to leave if the attendee is leaving by their own transport.

If an attendee is not from the Christadelphian community, the hosts can obtain advice from the attendee's Christadelphian contact person.

### **DO**

- Ensure that all hosts and SCYP Committee members over the age of 18 have a current clearance for Working With Children, on appointment.
- Verify and record that all hosts and committee members over the age of 18 have a current clearance for Working with Children. (Presidents)
- Ensure the first aid kit is present at all SCYP events and remains well equipped.
- Limit physical contact with young people and be wary of displaying unnecessary affection.
- Initiate an appropriate level of intervention if an SCYP attendee has acted outside the codes of conduct.
- Work at least in pairs on room rounds at camps
- Work at least in pairs in a formal discussion with an SCYP attendee
- Oversee, guide and give advice on the organisation of events, especially camps

### **DON'T**

- Do things of a personal nature that a young person can do for themselves.

# **APPENDICES**

## **APPENDIX 1: CHANGING AN SCYP CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each of these codes of conduct should be considered current unless an SCYP attendee, volunteering committee member or host proposes to amend or change a clause or section. In the case of any proposed change or amendment, this should be brought before the SCYP Committee at the monthly meeting so that it may fall to a majority vote of the delegates. If any delegate does not feel comfortable voting on behalf of their ecclesia's young people without consultation, then this vote should be postponed to the next monthly meeting. If the proposed amendment or change is upheld by the vote, the revised code of conduct will be re-published.