



Parent Handbook



Welcome!

We're so glad that you and your student have decided to check out our ministry!

Our Goal

As a ministry of Seaside Community Church, our goal at ViralFaith is to provide a safe, positive, and fun environment where students in Junior and Senior High School can explore the answers to the questions they have about life, faith, and more, in light of the Bible's teachings.

Each ViralFaith meeting begins promptly at 7:00pm and lasts until 8:30pm, and consists of a (FREE!) meal, group games, and a short lesson from the Bible.

The location of each meeting depends upon what activities/lessons we have planned for that particular evening, and/or the availability of meeting spaces (since we don't own our own church building). Locations and schedules will be available at least one month in advance through our monthly ViralFaith e-newsletter and/or web page at <http://www.seasidechurchonline.org/Viralfaith.html>.

We also invite students to join us for occasional special events, such as youth conferences, trips to theme parks, community service projects, and more!

Mission and Core Values

ViralFaith holds to the same Mission and Core Values as Seaside Community Church:

Mission:

To give the people of our community an accurate picture of God and see their lives transformed by Him into followers of Jesus Christ who impact the world as He would.

Core Values:

Love God

We seek to grow deeper in our relationships with God every day, living with an eternal perspective, examining our hearts and motives, living out His words in our lives as accurately as possible, living for Him in everything we do.

Love People

We seek to love others as Jesus has loved us, to see them as He sees them, to live in unity with other followers of Christ, to use the resources God has given us to serve others and help those in need (spiritually, emotionally, and/or physically), to bring Jesus' hope to the world.

Who are these leaders, anyway?

Our Senior Pastor, Matt Abbott, has over 24 years of experience in working with teenagers in a church setting.

Prior to setting up ViralFaith, Pastor Matt also started two other youth ministries from scratch: *Aftershock* in Roseville, California, in 2005, and *Escape* in Pleasanton, California, in 2009.

Matt has been privileged to serve on the planning committee for the annual CSBC "Tsunami" youth convention, as well as to teach breakout sessions for teenagers there. Matt has also led training classes for youth **leaders** at both Tsunami and the Placer County Association's annual Sunday School Training. Matt has a B.A. Degree in Humanities and Religious Studies from California State University of Sacramento.

Youth Ministry Assistant Amy Abbott is married to Pastor Matt, and brings a wealth of student ministry experience with her into ViralFaith as well. She has consistently served alongside Matt in the settings listed above.

Youth Ministry Worker Rules

To ensure the safety of your students, ViralFaith and Seaside Community Church abide by strict guidelines concerning whom they will allow to work with our teenagers:

When someone wants to help with ViralFaith Teen Ministry:

- Potential helper/leader (hereinafter "He/she") must be a Christian
- He/she must be in the church for a minimum of 6 months
- He/she must be an **active covenant member** of Seaside Community Church
- He/she must have a background check done
- He/she must be at least 20 years of age

He/she also must be interviewed and approved by the Senior Pastor.

To be a driver for an event:

- He/she must be an approved youth helper (see above)
- He/she must also be (separately) approved to drive by Senior Pastor.
- He/she must follow the gender rules below (see "when working with youth")
- He/she must possess:
 - (a.) a valid driver's license, of which church office must keep a photocopy.
 - (b.) proof of insurance, of which church office must keep a photocopy.
- He/she must agree to, and sign, the SCC Youth Ministry "Driver Agreement" (see next section)

When working with youth:

- One adult leader is **never** to be alone with one youth, whether in a car, a room of a church building, a room of a hotel, a room of a community center, or wherever they may be. They must always be in a place where another person/other persons can see them (ideally, another person who is an adult, unrelated to the adult leader).
- When traveling in a vehicle as a group, there must be at least one youth of the same gender as at least one of the (preferably "unrelated") adults in the car.
 - o (for example: one male driver with all female youth in the car is not acceptable; but one male driver with one male and three female youth in the car is acceptable).

If staying overnight with multiple youth staying in the same hotel room:

- only youth of the same gender may be in the same room (either all female or all male)
- one adult chaperone of that same gender must stay in that room as well.

Any youth wishing to attend an official ViralFaith Teen Ministry event must fill out a permission slip (included in this handbook) in order to do so.

SCC ViralFaith Teen Ministry Driver Agreement

Acknowledging and understanding that:

1. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles Handbook,

"California has a 'Basic Speed Law.' This law means you may never drive faster than is safe for current conditions. For example, if you are driving 45 mph in a 55 mph zone during a dense fog, you could be cited for driving 'too fast for conditions.' You may never legally drive faster than the posted speed limit, even if you think it is safe to do so."

2. The Bible commands us to obey our earthly authorities and laws (as long as they don't direct us to sin):

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

- Romans 13:1-7, NIV

3. It is a bad witness to both the world around us and the teens we are transporting (for whom SCC is also responsible for the safety of, on youth trips) to disobey either or both,

I, _____, agree to follow all applicable traffic laws to the best of my knowledge and ability for the complete duration of any and all youth trips for which I am a driver.

I also understand, and agree, that if I break this agreement, I most likely will not be asked to be a driver for any ViralFaith Teen Ministry events in the future.

(Should *no* drivers end up being available and/or eligible for an event, I understand that our teens will have to miss that event.)

Signature

Date

Print Name

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACTIVITY/MEDICAL CONSENT FORM

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of _____
(hereinafter "my child") and I am informed of the activities offered by Seaside Community Church, Seaside, CA.

As the parent or legal guardian of my child, I hereby consent for my child to attend and participate in the following church-sponsored activity:

Should an emergency occur in which my student requires medical assistance while participating in the above-listed activity/event, I additionally consent to any x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment, and hospital care under the general or special supervision and upon the advice of or to be rendered by a physician or surgeon licensed under the Medical Practice Act for my child. This authority also extends to any x-ray examination, anesthetic, dental or surgical diagnosis, or treatment and hospital care by a dentist licensed under the Dental Practice Act for my child. I further agree to pay all charges for the dental, medical, or hospital care or treatment.

As parent or legal guardian of my child, I am responsible for the health care decisions of my child and am authorized to consent to the services to be rendered. I represent that my consent to, and agreement to pay for, the dental, medical, or hospital care or treatment to be rendered to my child is legally sufficient and that the law requires no consent from any other person.

Please note the following information in case of an emergency:

Known Food or Drug Allergies: _____

Medical Insurance Company/Policy #: _____

Telephone Number Where Parent/Guardian Can Be Reached: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Print Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Parent Involvement

One of our goals at ViralFaith is to keep the parents/legal guardians of ViralFaith attendees as informed as possible of what we are doing in our student ministry, and as involved in our activities as parents/guardians would like to be.

If you should ever have questions, concerns, or want to be more involved, please don't hesitate to let us know (see "Contact Info", below). We're here for your students, and we're here for you!

Discipline

As stated in the "our goal" section, it is our hope that ViralFaith will always be a place where students can thrive in a number of ways, including relationally.

However, from much experience with teen ministry, we also recognize that, from time to time, a teen attendee of ViralFaith may behave in a way that is clearly inappropriate. Should this happen, our teen ministry leaders will follow the following procedure:

1. Verbal warning to student and notification to parents of teen's behavior

Assuming the inappropriate action of the teen is nothing law-breaking, our first step will simply be a warning to the teen and a notification to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the teen concerning the incident.

2. Meetings with teen(s) and/or parents/guardians

If the behavior does not improve after step 1 and/or is serious enough to warrant it, the teen(s) involved in the inappropriate behavior, as well as his/her/their parent(s)/guardian(s), will be asked to meet with the Senior Pastor to see if the matter can be resolved. (Sometimes, teens simply need some assistance in a more personal way that isn't always available in a group setting. If this is the case, hopefully step 2 will help!)

3. Meetings and temporary suspension from special events

If the behavior does not improve after steps 1 and 2 and/or is serious enough to warrant it, step 3 involves meeting with all teens involved in the inappropriate behavior, and their parents/guardians, AND adding a temporary suspension for the teens involved from attending any "special events" (concerts, theme park trips, conferences, etc.) until the matter is resolved or—at the very least—has made significant progress. The teens are allowed, however, to continue attending regular ViralFaith meetings.

4. Suspension from all ViralFaith events, meet with the Seaside Community Church Leaders.

Should the behavior still not improve and/or be serious enough to warrant it, the teens involved will be suspended from attending any ViralFaith meetings or events until the matter is resolved or has made significant progress toward being so. Teens involved and their parents/guardians must meet with the Senior Pastor during this time, to (hopefully) bring about needed restoration.

It is, of course, our hope to *not* need this procedure at all. Nevertheless, we keep it in place in case applicable situations arise.

Important Note: Mandated Reporters

Please also note that, as mandated reporters, our ministry staff and youth leaders are required to report any illegal activity to the proper authorities (in addition to following the above procedures).

ViralFaith Contact Info:

Church Website: www.seasidechurchonline.org

Church Main Phone: (831) 240-7903

Pastor Matt:

- Cell phone: (831) 240-7903
- E-mail: pastormatt@seasidechurchonline.org

Amy Abbott:

- Cell phone: (831) 747-0132
- Email: amabbott@me.com