

VIRALFAITH

STUDENT MINISTRY

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 ViralFatih 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 for each month's activities are available at our ViralFaith web page, located 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 is leading ViralFaith?

Our Senior Pastor, Matt Abbott, has over 24 years of experience with working with Junior and Senior High School students in a church setting.

Prior to launching ViralFaith, Pastor Matt also founded two other student ministries: *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 at the convention itself. Matt has also lead 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 students who attend ViralFaith events:

To volunteer as a chaperone/helper/leader for ViralFaith Student Ministry:

- The potential chaperone/helper/leader (hereinafter "He/she") must be a baptized Christian
- He/she must be actively attending Seaside Community Church services for a **minimum** of 6 months
- He/she must be an **active covenant member** of Seaside Community Church
- He/she must pass a background check as done through Seaside Community Church
- He/she must be a least 20 years of age

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

To be a driver who transports (non-related) students to a ViralFaith event:

- He/she must be an approved volunteer (as described 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 students")
- He/she must possess:
 - (a.) a valid driver's license, of which church Administrative Assistant must keep a photocopy.
 - (b.) proof of insurance, of which the church Administrative Assistant must keep a photocopy.
- He/she must agree to, and sign, the SCC Youth Ministry "Driver Agreement" (see next section)

When working with students as an approved volunteer

- One adult leader is **never** permitted to be alone with one student (unless it is their own child/family member)—whether for transportation in a car, occupying a room of a building/facility housing a ViralFaith event, a room of a hotel on a ViralFaith overnight trip, or anywhere they may be. Adult volunteers 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 to a ViralFaith event, there must be at least one youth of the same birth gender as at least one of the adults in the car.
 - o (For example: one male driver with all female student in the car is not acceptable; but one male driver with one male and three female students in the car *is* acceptable).

If staying overnight at a hotel with multiple students in the same room:

- only students of the same birth gender may be in the same room (either all female or all male)
- one adult chaperone of that same birth gender must stay in that room as well with the students, abiding by all of the above rules.

Any students wishing to attend an official ViralFaith Student 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

VIRALFAITH

STUDENT MINISTRY

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!

Parents are (of course!) always welcome to drive their own family members to/from any ViralFaith events, and to be present for ViralFaith weekly gatherings (*though they may not "participate"/engage with any unrelated students unless the parent is approved to be an official volunteer, as noted above).

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, we also recognize that, from time to time, a student attendee of ViralFaith may behave in a way that is clearly inappropriate in terms of the stated goals of the ministry. Should this happen, our student ministry leaders will follow the following procedure:

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

Assuming that the inappropriate action of the student is not law-breaking, our first step will be a warning to the student about the specific inappropriate behavior and a notification to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student concerning the incident.

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

If the same behavior does not improve after a warning as stated above and/or the behavior is serious enough to warrant it, the student(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.

3. Meetings and temporary suspension from special events

If the same behavior does not improve after steps 1 and 2 and/or is serious enough to warrant it, step 3 will be to meet with all students involved in the inappropriate behavior and their parents/guardians, AND to add a temporary suspension for the students 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 students are still allowed, however, to continue attending regular ViralFaith weekly meetings.

4. Suspension from all ViralFaith events, meet with the SCC Leaders.

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

(Of course, it is our hope to *not* need to enact 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 student 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