



# Parent Handbook



## Welcome!

We're so glad that you and your teenager 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 teenagers can explore the answers to the questions they have about life, faith, and more, in light of the Bible's teachings.

From January 2015 through May 2015, ViralFaith will meet once a month on the **second** Friday of each month.\* From June 5, 2015 "onward", ViralFaith will meet **weekly** on Friday nights.

Each ViralFaith meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm and lasts until 8:30pm, and consist of a (FREE!) meal, group games, and a short (relevant!) 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 pages.

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

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\*Specifically: January 9<sup>th</sup>, February 13<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup>, and May 8<sup>th</sup>.

# **Mission and Core Values**

ViralFaith holds to the same Mission and Core Values as SCC:

## **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 guys, anyway?

**Our Teen Ministry Leader, Kyle Stark,** has been an integral part of launching Seaside Community Church since *before* SCC's "official" beginning. When SCC was simply a small group of college-agers meeting in a CSUMB apartment in 2010, it was Kyle's home they used.

Since that time, Kyle has been officially hired as SCC's "Worship Arts Assistant," and—in addition to dazzling our church each week with his amazing vocals and musical talent—constantly assists Pastor Matt with SCC leadership decisions, setup and teardown, and anything else that needs to be done.

It is Kyle's heart for Jesus, and seemingly natural ability to connect with teenagers, however, that makes Pastor Matt confident that Kyle's is the right man to lead this ministry.

**Our Senior Pastor, Matt Abbott,** has almost 17 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 also has a B.A. Degree in Humanities and Religious Studies from California State University of Sacramento.

**Teen helper Amy Abbott** is married to Pastor Matt, and brings a wealth of teen ministry experience with her into ViralFaith as well. She has consistently served alongside Matt in the adventures we listed above.

## Youth Ministry Worker Rules

To ensure the safety of your teens, ViralFaith and SCC 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<sup>1</sup>
- He/she must be an **active member**
- 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 and Teen Ministry Leader

### 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 Teen Ministry Leader and/or Senior Pastor to drive.
- 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 the church building, a room of a hotel, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Research shows that child molesters, etc., who have the motivation/goal of inappropriately taking advantage of students, usually do not "hang around" as long as 6 months if such a rule is in place.

- (for example: male driver with all female youth is not acceptable; but male driver with 1 male and 3 female youth is fine).

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) to be able to leave church grounds for that official ViralFaith Teen Ministry event.

## SCC ViralFaith Teen Ministry Driver Agreement

Acknowledging and understanding that:

1. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles Handbook<sup>2</sup>,  
"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, (driver name) \_\_\_\_\_, 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.)

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Signature

Date

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Print Name

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<sup>2</sup> As found at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/hdbk/pgs19thru22.htm>

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Additionally, I 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:

Food or Drug Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Insurance Company/Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # 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're doing in our teen 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 teens, 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 teens 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 "out of bounds". Should this happen, our teen ministry leaders will follow the following procedure:

### ***1. Verbal warning and parents notified of teen's behavior***

Assuming the "out of bounds" 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) of the teen of what occurred.

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

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), will be asked to meet with the Teen Ministry Leader and/or 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, AND adds to that 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 weekly ViralFaith meetings.

#### **4. Suspension from all ViralFaith meetings, meet with the SCC 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 must meet with the Teen Ministry Leader and/or Senior Pastor during this time, to (hopefully) bring about needed restoration.

Again, hopefully we won't need this procedure, but we have it in place "just in case."

#### ***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](http://www.seasidechurchonline.org)

Church Office: (831) 240-7903

ViralFaith Websites: Coming Soon!

Kyle Stark:

- Cell phone: (831) 402-2142
- E-mail: [kstark.ks@gmail.com](mailto:kstark.ks@gmail.com)

Pastor Matt:

- Cell phone: (831) 262-2047
- E-mail: [pastormatt@seasidechurchonline.org](mailto:pastormatt@seasidechurchonline.org)

Amy Abbott:

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