

**Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church**  
**Youth Ministry**  
**Electronic Device Policy**

**Electronic Device Policy**

In order to preserve Christian fellowship and community, Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church's policy regarding electronic devices is as follows: the use of any and all electronic devices (cell phones, mp3 players, etc.) is prohibited during normal youth activities. In order to facilitate communication between parents and students during these activities, there is a phone located in the youth lounge and all youth staff and volunteers will have cell phones that students may borrow.

Our "normal" youth activities are Shazam/Vittles, Rendezvous, and the several Prayer Breakfast meetings. On weekend retreats, like the Fall Retreat and Against the Flow, electronic devices will not be needed nor allowed – youth staff and chaperones can be contacted in emergencies. On weeklong retreats or trips, such as RYM, Restoration Now, etc., Sr. high students will be allowed limited use of devices, and the appropriate times will be deemed by the youth staff or chaperones. However, Jr. High students are prohibited to use their cell phones at any time on weeklong trips unless a member of the youth staff or chaperone deems otherwise.

**Cautions of Electronic Devices**

Many cell phones and mp3 players now have easy access to the Internet, which means your child has access to endless information – some of which can be highly detrimental to their spiritual and emotional development. It is impossible for the youth staff to be able to monitor the usage of your teenagers electronic device; therefore, this policy will be extremely helpful in our efforts to maintain proper use of these devices.

**Fostering Christian Community**

Part of our philosophy for youth ministry is to create various contexts for our youth to interact as a community of believers. It is in these contexts that they “live out” their faith. They learn how to be in relationship with each other, which is at the heart of the gospel, i.e. Christ came to redeem the relationships of His people to Himself.

However, electronic devices can greatly hinder that. They can allow the student to disengage from their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, which works against - not only a core youth ministry philosophy - but a core Christian belief.

The Youth Ministry Team is not saying that these devices are inherently bad and that they do not have any value. What we are saying is that they can be very harmful with no limits or monitoring. As a youth ministry, we are partnering with the parents to assist in the spiritual growth of your teenager. It is our hope that this policy can be a helpful teaching tool in the lives of POPC's covenant youth. Please assist us in this endeavor by sitting down with your teen to explain the importance of Christian community and how, ultimately, we are attempting to expose them to a joyful community without the use of electronic devices.

Sincerely,

Pear Orchard Youth Ministry Team