ISM Event Policy & Parent Information

Hyphen Students & Pulse Leaders

Thank you for partnering with us as we invest in the spiritual growth, safety, and discipleship of your student. Please review the following event policies carefully. These guidelines are designed to ensure a safe, organized, and Christ-centered experience for everyone attending.

1. Event Overview

This event will take place from **Wednesday evening through Saturday morning**. Students will return to the **Refuge Independence campus on Saturday**, with the **latest estimated return time around 3:00 PM**. A more specific ETA will be communicated as the event approaches.

To ensure optimal seating and full participation in evening services (which begin around **7:00 PM**), we will **depart on Wednesday at noon**. This departure may require your student to miss school or attend a half day. Students should plan to be excused for **at least three school days**, and we encourage parents to notify teachers and school staff in advance.

2. Lodging & Supervision

Students will be housed in **same-gender hotel rooms**, with **three students per room**, and will be supervised by approved ISM leaders. We know that there will be students who may have preferences and parents have preferences as to who their student will be lodged with.

We value unity and healthy relationships among our students. Because of that, minor tension, mild discomfort, or occasional awkwardness between students typically would not result in a room change. We also encourage parents to support and encourage their students to show grace, maturity, and kindness, especially toward peers they may not naturally get along with, as these moments can be meaningful opportunities for growth.

However, if there are deeper concerns, such as a history of bullying or other circumstances we may not be aware of, please let us know. In those cases, we will do our best to thoughtfully and appropriately adjust room arrangements.

Once registration closes, we will have a clearer understanding of the total number of students. With that information, we will be able to share room assignments approximately two weeks prior to departure. Please share any room-related concerns with us privately no later than one week before departure. Room arrangements will be finalized on the Wednesday before we leave

Pulse Leaders & Hyphen Students

Pulse Leaders and Hyphen Students serve **different roles** during this event.

- **Hyphen Students** (including Pulse Leaders who choose to attend *as Hyphen-only participants*) will be enjoying the event and will be placed in **Hyphen-only rooms**.
- Hyphen Students are **not responsible for chaperoning**, but because they are attending with ISM, they are expected to set **healthy, holy examples** for younger students and live within and above the policies outlined for a ISM student.
- Serving **Pulse Leaders will be housed separately** to ensure clarity of roles and appropriate supervision. By separately, we mean with ISM students.

This structure helps create clear expectations and a safe, organized environment for everyone.

3. Medical & Dietary Information

Parents are required to disclose:

- Any medical conditions
- Allergies (food, medication, or environmental)
- Medications that must be administered during the trip

All medications must be **clearly labeled**, with instructions provided. Emergency contact information must be accurate and current.

*(**These items have already been, or will be, collected electronically through online registration.**)*

4. Student Conduct & Expectations

All students are expected to:

- Follow **Refuge ISM guidelines and leadership direction** (see ISM Boundaries packet)
- Show respect to leaders, peers, hotel staff, and event personnel
- Remain with the group at all times unless given permission (this permission MUST come from PULSE LEADER, not HYPHEN ONLY STUDENT)
- Represent **Christ and Refuge Church with integrity**

Specifically, students are expected to:

- Respect all leaders and fellow students
- Be accountable to their assigned room leader
- Listen to instructions from all leaders
- Participate fully during services
- **No cell phone use during services**
- **No pairing off with the opposite sex**

- Be a positive representation of Refuge Church at all times

5. What NOT to Bring

Students should **not** bring:

- Drugs or alcohol
- Anything not permitted by normal ISM events
- Weapons or fireworks
- Music not conducive to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Animals of any kind
- Packers hats or gear of any kind
- Annoying siblings
- Bad attitudes

(Yes, we said it. Come ready for Jesus and unity, this is why you are coming)

6. Service Expectations

Due to the size of this event:

- **We must sit together as ISM**
- We will **not save seats for non-ISM groups**
- Everyone is expected to find a seat and save it for ISM first
  (Yes, you're popular—but first, you're a seat saver. It's brutal out there.)

Additional expectations:

- Be in service the entire time; **minimal leaving once service begins**
- Use the restroom **before** service starts
- No guys in the girls' rows and vice versa
  (Let's focus on the Creator, not the creation—come on somebody!)

7. Dress Code

Ladies

- Skirts or dresses only; **must be below the knee when seated**
- Modest fit (not tight, clingy, or form-fitting)
- Shirts must have sleeves and appropriate necklines
- Shirts must not expose the stomach when arms are raised
- All coloring must be natural (hair, nails, makeup—cover-up only)
- No flip flops, jean skirts, or tennis shoes **to services**
- Take pride in representing Jesus Christ through your appearance

Parents: Please pre-screen clothing. We do not have backup clothes and do not want to be the bad guys at the event.

Men

- Dress pants or slacks for services (jeans acceptable during daytime services—just look good)
- Hair should be short and neatly styled
- Suit and tie preferred; dress shirt and slacks acceptable
- Clothes should be pressed and presentable
- No flip flops or tennis shoes **to services**
- All coloring must be natural
- Facial hair should be clean-shaven or neatly trimmed
- Take pride in representing Jesus Christ through your appearance

8. Other Important Rules

- All travel and plans must be **with the group at all times** (*this does not include HYPHEN; however be advised that if you arrive to the hotel before ISM you will need to wait to get into the rooms until we arrive*)
- Even if family is nearby, students **must remain with ISM**
- Guys: no wrestling (if you
- Ladies: be kind with actions and words
- If a room leader says **no**, do not ask another leader or Pastor Gavin
- Bags may be searched at any time for prohibited items
- ISM will use church texting software for communication
- Leaders will use a separate group text for the week
- Parents are encouraged to monitor all other group chats and social media

No rule bending. Not every situation can be written out, but the heart of these rules is simple: Stay together. Be safe. Be respectful. Encounter Jesus.

9. Consequences

Failure to follow expectations may result in a parent being contacted and, if necessary, the student being sent home **at the family's expense**. It is a 3/1/2 drive parents so if necessary we will request you to pick them up! We hope it does not get to get to that.

10. Media Release

By registering, parents grant permission for their student to be photographed or recorded during the event for church communication and promotional purposes, unless otherwise stated in writing.

Parent Acknowledgment

By registering your student, you acknowledge that you have:

- Read and understood this policy
- Reviewed all costs and expectations
- Agreed to the refund and deposit policy and the “student return” policy (picking them up if things go south with them)
- Granted permission for your student to attend and participate

We are grateful for your trust and partnership as we invest in the spiritual growth and development of your student. If you have any questions or need clarification, please don’t hesitate to reach out—we are here to help.

Parent Signature:

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Student/Hyphen Signature:

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