

# STS Cell Phone Policy

2023-2024 School Year



## Introduction

The STS cell phone policy exists to create an environment that supports our student ministry's vision where our students can have the opportunity to know Christ and His word, to be known by one another and to make Christ known to those around them. **Your student(s) participation in STS is your agreement to the following expectations:**

## Parent Expectations

Parents are the primary authority in their student(s) life and therefore have the responsibility to determine if their student(s) can bring their phone with them to STS.

Parents are to communicate the STS cell phone policy to their student(s).

Parents are to communicate their student(s) medical conditions/concerns to STS staff if they are requesting for their student(s) to have and/or use their own cell phone during an STS event or trip.

## Student Expectations

For **STS Sunday morning and Wednesday evening gatherings** during announcements, worship, teaching, and small group time students will be asked to put their cell phones away. In light of this, students should consider bringing a physical copy of the Bible with them to STS.

For **STS Sunday night events** students are encouraged to put their phones away in order to enjoy fellowship with staff, volunteers and with one another.

When cell phone or smart device use is permitted during an STS gathering, event, or trip, students are allowed to use cell phones or smart devices in common, public areas only.

Students are not to take pictures, make videos or post anything online with their cellphones of another student, staff, or volunteer without their permission.

## STS Specified Events / Trips

As a general policy for all overnight events or trips, students will not be allowed to keep their cell phones or smart devices on their person overnight. All cell phones and smart devices will be collected by staff or volunteers at a specified time each evening and returned to the students the following morning.

For specific events or trips (e.g. Galentines, 5th-7th grade retreats or mission trips) STS staff will communicate any additional or different cell phone and smart device expectations to parents, students and/or volunteers when the event or trip is open for registration on the STS website.

For any and every STS event and trip, the STS staff will provide their personal cell phone numbers to parents. This is to be the primary means of communication between parents and students over the course of an event or trip.

## Staff / Volunteer Expectations

If a student has a phone out during a restricted time in STS, a STS staff or STS volunteer has the authority to tell them to put their phone away. If a student does not abide by this expectation then parents will be asked to talk with STS staff to discuss further.