

Letter of Understanding (For Young Friends Only)

Among Parents, Guardians, or Sponsors, Young Friends, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Those Friends under age 18 who will be living in the Young Friends dorm at Baltimore Yearly Meeting Annual Session must have a parent, guardian, or sponsor on campus. Young Friends whose parents or guardians will not be attending Annual Session need to **find a sponsor**; and a parent or guardian, the sponsor, and the Young Friend need to **read and sign this letter** and fill out the information requested. A sponsor should be over age 35 and must be over age 25. In case of a medical or other emergency, the sponsor needs to be able to accompany the Young Friend to off-campus facilities if necessary. For this reason, people serving as Friendly Adult Presences at Annual Session may not be sponsors for Young Friends.

The Young Friends Gathering Expectations will be read several times during Annual Session and are available in the *Young Friends Handbook*. In addition, Young Friends should read the expectations printed on this page carefully. By signing this page in the space provided below, Young Friends affirm that they have read these expectation and agree to abide by them.

At Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we are a community of Friends living in the discipline of the Spirit. Attenders of all ages are asked to observe a level of conduct appropriate to Friends' principles; to take care that all of their personal behavior is bound by a respect for the sensitivities of all, including those of the host community; and to remember that our individual actions reflect on the Religious Society of Friends.

As a Religious Society, we profess a belief that God endows each human being with a measure of the Divine Spirit. [*BYM Faith and Practice*, 1988, page ii.] We cannot permit violent physical, verbal or other behavior that we find, through corporate discernment, violates that Divine Spirit. Those in our midst whose behavior disrupts program activities and/or threatens the physical and emotional safety and integrity of another will be asked to leave. (The full policy statement regarding registered sex offenders is available from the Yearly Meeting office.)

Parents and sponsors are expected to be actively responsible for their children at all times. Attenders are asked to help make a safe and supportive community for all children. If unable to function within the guidelines of the community, any attender may be asked to leave. Alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted at Annual Session. Recognizing the addictive nature of tobacco, we strongly discourage its use.

Parents, guardians, or sponsors must:

- Notify the Young Friend if she or he expects to be off campus at any time.
- Accompany the Young Friend for any medical attention required.
- Meet with the Executive Committee in the event that the Young Friend displays inappropriate behavior.
- Make travel arrangements in the event that the Young Friends must leave Yearly Meeting.
- Find another sponsor and secure a signature on the "Letter of Understanding" from this person in the event that the parent or original sponsor must leave Yearly Meeting unexpectedly, and notify a Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff person or a Friendly Adult Presence in the event of such a change.

We have read the Letter of Understanding above, agree with the sense of our responsibilities, and agree to these responsibilities. Please **sign and print name** on each signature line below.

Young Friend: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #s Home: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____