



First Unitarian Society of Westchester Religious Education

Registration & Participation Authorization

Please include information about all of your children/youth and complete **all three pages**.

Child/Youth's First Name	Last Name	Birth-date	Medical conditions or allergies? Please provide relevant details	Grade Sept of 20 __

Youth Phone & Email for Youth Group Communication _____

School District (we consult school calendars before we schedule RE activities to avoid conflicts) _____

Adult Name #1 _____	Adult Name #2 _____
Street Address _____	Street Address _____
City/State/ZIP _____	City/State/ZIP _____
Home Phone _____	Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____	Cell Phone _____
e-mail Address _____	e-mail Address _____

Please provide information about specific needs or issues that will help us serve your family. The confidentiality of this information will be respected, but shared as necessary with class or activity leaders. Any truly confidential matters should be discussed directly with the Director of Religious Education or Minister.

By registering your child(ren)/youth for Religious Education, you are asking for a commitment from the Society to provide a structured and meaningful learning community for them, and you are affirming your support of this learning. For RE to be successful, we invite parents/guardians into a reciprocal, collaborative partnership:

1. **Spiritually** – helping nurture the beloved community through constructive engagement of your child(ren)/youth, the teachers and advisors, the Minister and Director of Religious Education.
2. **Physically** – by occasionally serving as a helping hand, teacher, youth advisor, hall monitor or other RE role that will not consume your Sunday worship time; bringing your child(ren)/youth on a regular basis and communicating with teachers/advisors when your children will be absent so volunteers can adjust lesson plans as needed.
3. **Financially** – there is no fee to register your child for Religious Education. Your annual pledge funds our program. Thank you for your responsible support.

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Participation Authorization: I hereby give permission for my child to participate in the activities of the First Unitarian Society of Westchester (“FUSW”), of the Religious Education program and associated groups, the Central East UU Region, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and other activities and events, both on and off the premises of FUSW, to attend and to travel by car/van, public transportation, other means to such events or other places. I understand that I will not be asked to give permission in each instance, and that this form shall remain in force from year to year unless I rescind it in writing to FUSW.

Among the various activities in which my child may participate, I understand that some are supervised by adults and some give age-appropriate youth freedom to be independent and make their own decisions. I specifically give permission to view age-appropriate movies – these may be at FUSW, at a movie theater or another location. Ratings: Children will be shown only “G” or “PG” movies. Middle school youth may view “PG-13” movies. High school youth may view movies rated “R.”

Accidents can happen at any time. In consideration for FUSW permitting my child to participate, and on behalf of myself and my child, I hereby release, discharge, and indemnify FUSW (meaning FUSW *and* its members, directors, officers, organizers, employees, affiliated organizations, and any person associated or connected with it in any way) from any claim(s) I may have against FUSW and from any claim(s) my child may have for any injury or illness arising out of my child's participation in the activities.

Photos: We often take pictures during classes, youth group and congregational events. We may display these in the RE brochure, webpage, or other publications to convey the vibrancy of our RE ministry. Unless requested otherwise, we will use photos of all children and youth.

Health and Wellness Information

My child has the following allergies, dietary restrictions, medical conditions, or other situation of which FUSW should be aware: _____

(add a sheet if needed)

I give my consent and authority for an adult present for the activity with my child to take any reasonable action to help ensure the safety, health and welfare of my child, and absolve them of liability. I give permission for any emergency medical, surgical, diagnostic and hospital care, treatment, or procedures deemed immediately necessary or advisable by emergency medical technicians, a physician or hospital to safeguard my child’s health when I cannot be contacted. I agree to be responsible for any medical expenses not covered by my insurance.

In case of emergency and if unable to reach me, please contact:

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____

By signing below I state:

- I am a parent or legal guardian of the child(ren) named on this form,
- I have fully disclosed to FUSW all pertinent facts and acknowledge full responsibility for any omission or misstatement regarding such matters,
- I will update FUSW in writing if anything stated herein changes,
- This participation, authorization and release shall remain in effect from year to year unless I rescind it in writing to FUSW.

Signature _____ Date _____

*Leave completed forms in Tracy Breneman’s DRE mailbox, located in the hallway next to the kitchen.



First Unitarian Society of Westchester Religious Education

Safe and Sacred Policy

Affirming that communities are safer when expectations are clearly stated, we ask all volunteers, staff and parents to read and sign this Safe and Sacred Policy.

ROLE OF ADULT LEADERS

Adults working with children and youth in the context of our Unitarian Universalist faith have a crucial and privileged role--one that may carry with it a great deal of power and influence. Whether acting as youth advisor, chaperone, child-care worker, teacher, minister, participant at a youth-adult conference or in any other role, the adult has a special opportunity: to interact with young people in ways that are affirming and inspiring to the young people and to the adult. Adults can be mentors to, role models for, and trusted friends of children and youth. To help our children grow up to be caring and responsible adults can be a meaningful and joyful experience for the adult and a lasting gift to the young person. While it is important that adults be capable of maintaining meaningful friendships with the young people they work with, adults must exercise good judgment and mature wisdom in using their influence with children and youth and refrain from using young people to fulfill their own needs. Young people are in a vulnerable position when dealing with adults and may find it difficult to speak out about the inappropriate behavior of adults. Adult leaders need to possess a special dedication to working with young people in ways that affirm the UUA Principles. Good communication skills, self-awareness and understanding of others, sensitivity, problem-solving and decision-making skills, and a positive attitude are all important attributes. In addition, it is desirable for adult leaders to be persons who: 1) have a social network outside of their religious education responsibility in which to meet their own needs for friendship, affirmation and self-esteem; and 2) are willing and able to seek assistance from colleagues and religious professionals when they become aware of a situation requiring expert help or intervention. It is ultimately the responsibility of the entire religious community, not just those in leadership positions, to create and maintain a climate that supports the growth and welfare of children and youth.

CODE OF ETHICS

Adults and older youth who are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of both individuals and the community. It is, therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions be well-qualified to provide the special nurturing, care, and support that will enable children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility. The relationship between young people and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential of their relationship is to be realized. Self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being are two crucial components of development. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth. Wisdom dictates that children, youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care; therefore, leaders must refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with children and youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with children or youth which constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse. Leaders shall be informed of the code of ethics and agree to it before assuming their role. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.

Please sign below to affirm that you understand the policy and will abide by the code, as a volunteer, parent or staff member.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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