Spoudazo

2024 Student/Parent Handbook

Included in this Handbook:

Welcome Letter
List of Policies
Rehearsal and Tour Schedule
Forms to be Filled Out and Returned

First Lutheran Church Mission Statement

First Lutheran Church exists to raise up disciples in the Fremont area who transform lives through Christ.

Spoudazo Mission Statement

Spoudazo is a music and drama ministry for students currently in grades 9 through 2023 high school graduates. We welcome youth from **all** faith backgrounds. Our mission is to provide opportunity for students to explore, develop, and share their gifts of music and drama as they grow in their relationship with God and others.

Spoudazo 2024 Leadership Team

Name	Email	Phone
Administration, Dawn Koehlmoos Program Producer, Autumn Holoubek Faith Formation, Kaleb Jorgensen	dawn.koehlmoos@yahoo.com autumnholoubek@gmail.com kaleb.jorgensen@fpsmail.org	Cell # 402-936-1679 Cell # 402-620-1675 Cell # 402-719-8329
Tech, Devan Varrelli	dev.varrelli30@gmail.com	Cell # 402-719-0017
Co-Music Director, Lauren Breed	Imbreed3@gmail.com	Cell # 402-957-8730
Co-Music Director, Garret Drews	garret.drews1@gmail.com	Cell # 402-936-0331

Welcome

Welcome to Spoudazo 2024! We are excited to have you be a part of this year's experience and encourage you to invite your friends to be a part of this ministry, too! Spoudazo's ministry is about sharing the love of Jesus with the Fremont area, our touring areas, as well as with one another. You are an important part of making this ministry happen. Spoudazo is for anyone currently in grade 9 – 2023 high school graduates.

This year's production is "I am...". Our rehearsals will culminate in a taste of Spoudazo for the Fremont community on **Sunday, July 14** (9:30 A.M., under the Chautauqua Tent at 8th and Main Streets during John C. Fremont Days, and special music at the 10:45 A.M. service at First Lutheran Church); followed by a tour to Colorado. Tour is **Tuesday, July 16** – **Sunday, July 21**. Tour will conclude with the home concert presentation on **Sunday, July 21 at 7:00 P.M.** at First Lutheran Church.

The total cost of Spoudazo is \$450. These fees will pay for music, T-shirt, transportation, and tour expenses, except for some lunches while on tour. In a circumstance where financial support is needed, partial scholarships are available. Please contact the Spoudazo Leadership Team if there is a need.

Regarding registration: There will be an informational meeting at First Lutheran Church on **Sunday, April 28 from 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.** We will discuss the program, practices, attendance, and the tour. This will also give you a chance to have your questions answered. The forms you will need to complete and submit can be found in the Forms section of this handbook.

In order to participate, you will want to look at the following forms:

- ♦ Completed Registration Form
- ◆ Completed Calendar/Conflict Sheet
- ◆ Completed and signed Medical Form
- One signed copy of the Covenant
- ♦ One signed copy of the Parent Covenant

A student that cannot go on tour, is invited to do the rehearsals and the local activities, including the local performances, for the \$100 registration fee.

We look forward to the talent and gifts you offer to Spoudazo! We hope to see you at registration on April 28th

and the first rehearsal on Friday, May 17th. Please contact us if you have any further questions about registration or this year's SPOUDAZO.

God's Blessings, Spoudazo 2024 Leadership Team

Policies

Attendance

We ask that all participants work to be at all practices if possible. We also understand that this is a very busy time of year and we want to work with you to ensure that your student is able to be a part of this ministry. Please talk to the Spoudazo Leadership Team if you are concerned about conflicts between your student's schedule and the rehearsal schedule. We will be as flexible as we possibly can be. For the solos and speaking parts, preference may be given to students who do not have as many conflicts.

Auditions for Vocal Solos and Speaking Parts

As in past years, there are **no auditions to be in the group**. However, if you wish to be considered for a vocal solo and/or speaking part, you will be asked to audition. Everyone is welcome to audition. However, preference may be given to students who do not have as many conflicts with rehearsal times.

Authorization

All student participants and youth leaders are required to fill out the **Activities Permission and Medical Authorization Form**. This form is required even if a student or college leader is not able to go on tour.

Behavior Expectation

All participants will be expected to speak and act respectfully and with Christian love towards each other, our College Leaders and Adult Leaders, and anyone we interact with on Tour. Students, parents, and leaders will be required to sign a Covenant outlining these expectations. The Covenant can be found in the "Forms" section of this handbook.

Cell Phone

Students are allowed to bring their phones to rehearsals, but we ask that they put them away while we are practicing. If we have difficulties with this, we will collect the phones at the beginning of the rehearsal and give them back at the end of the evening. If you need to reach your student during rehearsal, please text or call someone on the Spoudazo Leadership Team. Contact information for the Spoudazo Leadership Team can be found on the cover this packet. **The policy for appropriate use of cell phones and other electronic devices can be found in this policy section.**

Communication Between Leaders and Students

It is expected that any texting and/or email communication between Ministry Leaders/Volunteers and student participants shall be used only for distribution of ministry information and NOT for personal contact.

Confidentiality

The confidentiality of student participants and their families as well as volunteer leaders and members of the Spoudazo Leadership Team is of utmost importance to our Ministry. It is expected that all Spoudazo Leadership Team members and volunteer leaders who have access to sensitive information will consistently and uniformly maintain the privacy and confidentiality of this information. In addition, discussions of this information with individuals outside of the Ministry Team should be limited to that which is necessary to the Ministry.

Dress Code

Students and leaders should dress appropriately for rehearsals and tour. We will follow the Fremont Public Schools/High School Dress Code Policy as a guideline. This policy can be found by clicking the link below. Always remember that we are representing Jesus Christ, our respective churches and our community. The Spoudazo Leadership Team reserves the right to ask any student or volunteer to change their attire if needed.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0RVf9dmZoviTV9LZIBTN0xfUm8/view

Electronic Devices and Social Media (appropriate use of)

It is expected that participants, volunteers, College Leaders and Spoudazo Leadership Team members will not use electronic devices and/or social media platforms for malicious purposes, i.e. bullying, spreading rumors/gossip and/or sending text messages or posts that are vulgar, obscene, or personal in nature. Such messages are both highly inappropriate and potentially illegal. It is further expected that all participants, volunteers and Leaders will not share or post photos, videos or texts that could embarrass themselves or others now or in the future.

Harassment and Non-Discrimination

First Lutheran Church values its ministry volunteers and participants, and the gifts each brings to First Lutheran Church Ministries. It is the policy of First Lutheran Church to maintain an environment free of all forms of discriminatory behavior toward any individual, including harassment directed toward individuals with disabilities or toward individuals because of race, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, disability, status with regard to public assistance, or age. The use of disparaging terms, derogatory remarks, and displays of insensitive treatment of another will not be tolerated.

POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of First Lutheran Church to maintain an environment free of any form of sexual harassment or sexual intimidation. Any form of sexual harassment within the ministry is unacceptable behavior and is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including discharge from participation in the ministry. Sexual harassment is unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. It includes, but is not limited to: unwelcome and unsolicited sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, discriminatory tormenting based on gender and other undesired verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. In particular, sexual harassment occurs if there is:

- submission to any kind of sexual harassment as an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment;
- submission to, or rejection of, sexually harassing behavior if used as a basis for personnel decisions affecting the recipient of the behavior;
- purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the recipient's ministry performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive ministry environment.

POLICY ON RACIST AND SEXIST BEHAVIOR

It is the policy of First Lutheran Church to maintain an environment free of all forms of racist and sexist behavior including overt, subtle, and perceived attitudes, comments or actions. Therefore, any form of racist or sexist behavior directed toward any volunteers or participants is not acceptable and is subject to disciplinary action. This policy pertains to every aspect of life within First Lutheran Church. Any racist or sexist behavior hurts our community and deforms relationships, seriously impacting collegiality and productivity. Racist and sexist behavior fundamentally violates the ELCA commitment to welcome cultural diversity and will not be tolerated. First Lutheran Church is committed to a healthy ministry environment that fosters mutual respect and the dignity of all volunteers and participants.

REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Any volunteer, participant or Leadership Team member who believes there has been a violation of First Lutheran Church's policies prohibiting harassment or discriminatory behavior has the right and responsibility to report the perceived violation as soon as possible to the Ministry Team Leaders and, if needed, to the Lead Pastor.

Leadership Requirement

All adults age 18 and older seeking to become volunteer leaders or members of the Spoudazo Leadership Team are required to undergo a yearly background check. In addition, all volunteer leaders and Spoudazo Leadership Team Members must complete the Safeguarding God's Children Training every 3 years. College Leaders are also required to fill out an application. Acceptance as a leader will be dependent upon these items being completed.

Payment

We work hard to keep the cost of the ministry affordable. Each year costs increase but we try to find creative ways to keep our registration fee as affordable as possible. God has always provided and First Lutheran Church has been so gracious to find ways to come up with extra funding when needed. A separate sheet in this packet explains fundraising opportunities.

The deposit should be paid at the time of registration. The remaining amount will be announced before the first rehearsal. If your family needs to make special arrangements to pay the remaining fee in installments, please contact the Spoudazo Leadership Team.

Our desire is that all youth who want to participate would be able to do so. If the cost of the fee is prohibitive, we have scholarship monies that may be available to assist you. Please contact the Spoudazo Leadership Team to apply.

Personal Property

First Lutheran church is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property while on the First Lutheran Campus, on Tour, or on the bus(es).

Refunds

No refunds will be given after June 4, 2024.

Weather/Cancellation Policy

In the event inclement weather occurs before a scheduled rehearsal, the Spoudazo Leadership Team will issue a cancellation statement via parent email and also post the statement on the First Lutheran website www.flcfremont.org If a significant weather event occurs after rehearsal has begun, the Spoudazo Leadership Team will take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all participants and volunteers. Once everyone is in a safe location, parents will be contacted via email and/or phone calls.

Fundraising Opportunities

Concession Stand

We have been presented with the opportunity to earn some funds by running a concession stand for a local youth baseball league. Students and/or parents will be asked to contribute to the efforts to operate the stand. The profits are 100% for Spoudazo, and will be used to offset the overhead expenses of Spoudazo, thus lowering the cost for each participant.

Each student or parent that works the concession stand will earn a \$12 per hour credit towards the participation fee.

Games will be played at Ronin Park at 1703 N Somers Street.

Please email or text Dawn Koehlmoos if you desire to work the concession stand.

Games will be from April until mid June.

Weeknight games begin at 6pm; Saturday games are at 11 and/or 1; Sunday games are at 1 and/or 3.

dawn.koehlmoos@yahoo.com; or 402-936-1679.

Athletic Shoe Recycling

Spoudazo is also participating in an athletic shoe recycling project with the company "gotsneakers?". Shoes are collected and sent to this company, at their expense, with the funds collected going to the ministry of Spoudazo. Shoes collected are: running, walking, hiking, court shoes, cleats (rubber only), and casual (Skechers, Vans). Any brand, and condition. Please leave the laces and insoles intact. Shoes that can still be worn are sent to markets in other countries. Shoes that are totally worn out are shredded and used in the manufacturing of new products. Shoes not accepted: boots (except hiking), dress shoes, flip flops, sandals, slippers, and water shoes. No shoe is "too worn out". Shoes can be taken to First Lutheran at any time. When a bag is full; it is sent off. This will be an ongoing project.

Registration Forms Spoudazo 2024

You will need to submit the following items:

- Completed registration form
- \$100 deposit ("First Lutheran Church" with "Spoudazo 2024" in the memo please)
- Schedule/Conflict Sheets
- Completed and signed Activities Permission and Medical Authorization Form and Insurance Card
- Completed and signed Student Covenant
- Completed and signed Parent Covenant

Registration Form Spoudazo 2024

Your Name:		
Parent's name:		
Address:		
City/State/Zip		
Home phone #:	_ Student's cell phone:	
Parent's work #(s): Dad	Mom	
Parent's cell #(s): Dad	Mom	
Parent's email address: Dad:	Mom:	
Your email:		
Your home church/Pastor's name:		
Grade Completed as of May 2024:	School you currently attend (or work, if out of F	IS):
VOCAL PART: SOPRANO ALTO _	TENOR/BARITONE	
BIRTHDATE: month day year	Current age:	
T_SHIRT (adult sizes): SM MED	LARGE XI XXI XXXI	

Spoudazo 2024 Schedule/Conflict Sheet Please keep one copy for yourself and return one copy with dates circled when you have a rehearsal conflict.

Participant ^a	's Name	
Friday	May 17	7-10:30 p.m.
Thursday	May 23	7-10:30 p.m.
Thursday	May 30	7-11:00 p.m.
Tuesday	June 4	7-11:00 p.m.
Thursday	June 6	7-11:00 p.m. Choreography part I
Tuesday	June 11	7-11:00 p.m.
Thursday	June 13	7-11:00 p.m.
Tuesday	June 18	7-11:00 p.m.
Thursday	June 20	7-11:00 p.m.
Tuesday	June 25	7-11:00 p.m. Choreography part II
Thursday	June 27	7-11:00 p.m.
Tuesday	July 2	7-11:00 p.m.
Friday	July 5	7-11:00 p.m.
Tuesday	July 9	7-11:00 p.m.
Friday	July 12	7-11:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal (Parent Picture Night starts @ 10:15 p.m.)
Sunday	July 14	9:30 a.m. Taste of Spoudazo under the Chautauqua Tent at 8 th & Main St.
		during John C. Fremont Days
		10:45 a.m. Contemporary Service at First Lutheran Church (Special Music)
Tues-Sun	July 16-21	Tour to the Colorado
Sunday	July 21	7:00 p.m. Home concert presentation at First Lutheran Church

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Spoudazo 2024 Student Covenant

A covenant is defined as an agreement, pledge or contract between two people or groups of people, promising to abide by shared rules and behavior for the good of all involved. We ask that ALL those involved (including Spoudazo participants, parents, college leaders, adult volunteers and Spoudazo Leadership Team members) help shape the production of Spoudazo by emphasizing the importance of that agreement. During this production, everyone assumes certain responsibilities. This covenant highlights the importance of those responsibilities and indicates your own personal willingness to make this production a success. We take this covenant seriously and expect everyone involved to do so too. Please keep a copy of this covenant for yourself.

I ,, understand the importance of my commitment to the aims and goal
of the 2024 production of Spoudazo. I will put my God-given gifts, abilities and common sense to the
best possible use for this production, using them to help make this a positive and important Christian
experience for everyone involved. To that end, I make the following promises:

- 1. I promise to participate fully in the goals of the production. Spoudazo aims to be an exciting Christian experience for participants and all those who experience this ministry. In order for me to find the most meaning for my faith, I will participate actively, willingly, and attentively during times of rehearsal, Bible study, and sharing in groups. My Christian faith is important to me, and I hope that I will discover new things about my faith and relationship to God as a result of this production.
- 2. I promise to respect the personal rights, property and privacy of all those involved in the production, as well as those whom we encounter in churches, retreat centers, tourist sites, and people's homes during the course of the production.
- 3. I promise **to respect myself** and the goals of the production by leaving at home anything contrary to the standards expected of a Christian group. Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, pornographic material, weapons, or anything else which good conscience tells me does not belong at rehearsals or on tour, and which can be harmful to myself or others, is included in this category. I know I can have fun and live life without these.
- 4. I promise **to watch my words carefully** as words can hurt. This includes speaking on any level including face-to-face, through social media, texting or otherwise. I promise to work hard during this production to avoid the use of profane or vulgar language. I know that offends God. I will also work hard to avoid saying hurtful things to others. I understand that when I offend God or others with my words, it ultimately gives people a certain impression about me that I should not be proud of. I am aware that any form of "bullying" either outright or subliminal (through body language, visual, etc.), will not be tolerated and that the Spoudazo Leadership Team reserves the right to contact my parents/guardians to ensure that appropriate measures are taken if the bullying behavior continues.
- 5. Our sexuality, who we are as male and female, is a tremendous gift from God. I promise to **not offend others or hurt their feelings** by misusing that gift whether through my words or conduct.

- I promise **to cooperate in whatever way** I can during the production to make it run smoothly. I will not hold the group up by being late for planned events. I will do my fair share of duties when such are assigned. This is a production involving many different people and I intend to make it better for everyone else through my cooperation and my positive attitude. Kindness counts!!
- 7. I promise to conduct myself according to these standards while at rehearsals and while on tour. I understand that I am part of a group and that my actions reflect on all members of the group, as well as the leaders of Spoudazo and the Fremont community.

I understand that I may be asked to leave the production and/or sent home from tour for any of the following actions: stealing, bullying, sexual harassment, the use of alcohol, drugs, weapons, tobacco or pornographic material. If other serious situations arise, the Leadership Team reserves the right to evaluate each instance and determine appropriate action. If I am sent home from tour, I understand that my parents/guardians are responsible for expenses to bring me home.

manual.		
PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE: _	 	

I/we have read and agree to abide by the promises above and the policies as stated in this

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

DATE:

Each participant fills out **two copies** of the covenant. Please keep one copy at home. One will remain on file at First Lutheran Church.

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- I promise **to cooperate in whatever way** I can during the production to make it run smoothly. I will not hold the group up by being late for planned events. I will do my fair share of duties when such are assigned. This is a production involving many different people and I intend to make it better for everyone else through my cooperation and my positive attitude. Kindness counts!!
- 7. I promise to conduct myself according to these standards while at rehearsals and while on tour. I understand that I am part of a group and that my actions reflect on all members of the group, as well as the leaders of Spoudazo and the Fremont community.

I understand that I may be asked to leave the production and/or sent home from tour for any of the following actions: stealing, bullying, sexual harassment, the use of alcohol, drugs, weapons, tobacco or pornographic material. If other serious situations arise, the Leadership Team reserves the right to evaluate each instance and determine appropriate action. If I am sent home from tour, I understand that my parents/guardians are responsible for expenses to bring me home.

I/we have read and agree to abide by the promanual.	mises above and the policies as stated in this
PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE:	

DATE:			
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:			
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Each participant fills out **two copies** of the covenant. Please keep one copy at home. One will remain on file at First Lutheran Church.

Spoudazo 2024 Parent Covenant

(please sign and return one copy, and keep one copy at home)

The role of parents or guardians is an essential element of our Spoudazo Ministry. Parents have the following responsibilities in Spoudazo:

- To trust in the leadership of Spoudazo and support them with your prayers. The Spoudazo leadership is passionate about this ministry and volunteer their time and energy to make each production bring out the best in your children, help guide your children's faith life, and encourage them in their gifts.
- To communicate openly and directly with the leadership of Spoudazo when special needs arise with your child or if you have a concern. Taking care to use constructive language to support the best interest of all involved is important.
- To help if asked to provide snacks for a rehearsal night and help provide dinner for the group before the Home Concert.
- To make sure the total Spoudazo fee is paid in a timely manner and according to schedule.
- To be positive about the Spoudazo Ministry as it is a Fremont community event and to support it through your words and actions. To be sure that your child is there for each rehearsal unless the pre-arranged absence has been noted on the conflict sheet. We understand and encourage other activities that your child wants to participate in, (dance recital, home church activities, and we'll even work with you for sport practices.
- To encourage your child to explore their faith life deeply through the experience of Spoudazo. We assume that worship in your congregation and faith in your home life are the primary places where they experience growth in their relationship with Jesus. But it is our prayer that Spoudazo is one additional part of your child's faith life that helps them have meaningful faith conversations with their peers and mentors.
- To allow your child's image or likeness to be used for publicity, photography and/or other promotional applications for marketing/public relations purposes during the entire Spoudazo experience.

As parent/guardian of this child, I understand that my/our child may be asked to leave the production and/or sent home from tour for any of the following actions: stealing, bullying, sexual harassment, the use of alcohol, drugs, weapons, tobacco or pornographic material. If other serious situations arise, the Spoudazo Leadership Team reserves the right to evaluate each instance and determine appropriate action. If my/our child is sent home from tour, I understand that I/we are responsible for expenses to bring my/our child home and I/we release the Spoudazo Ministry, Leadership Team, representatives, or volunteers of any responsibility as such.

In the event of an emergency where medical treatment is required, I give permission to Dawn Koehlmoos or Kaleb Jorgensen to obtain the services of a licensed medical professional for my child. Please attempt to notify me immediately concerning any emergency.

I/we have read and agree to abide by the policies as stated in this manual. In addition, I/we understand the standards, commitments, and support needed in order to make this year's Spoudazo a spiritually successful experience for my/our child.

Student's Name:	
Parent's or Guardian's signature:	Date:
Parent's or Guardian's signature:	Date:

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(please sign and return one copy, and keep one copy at home)

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- To communicate openly and directly with the leadership of Spoudazo when special needs arise with your child or if you have a concern. Taking care to use constructive language to support the best interest of all involved is important.
- To help if asked to provide snacks for a rehearsal night and help provide dinner for the group before the Home Concert.
- To make sure the total Spoudazo fee is paid in a timely manner and according to schedule.
- To be positive about the Spoudazo Ministry as it is a Fremont community event and to support it through your words and actions. To be sure that your child is there for each rehearsal unless the pre-arranged absence has been noted on the conflict sheet. We understand and encourage other activities that your child wants to participate in, (dance recital, home church activities, and we'll even work with you for sport practices.
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I/we have read and agree to abide by the policies as stated in this manual. In addition, I/we understand the standards, commitments, and support needed in order to make this year's Spoudazo a spiritually successful experience for my/our child.

Student's Name:	
Parent's or Guardian's signature:	Date:
Parent's or Guardian's signature:	Date:

2024 Activities Permission and Medical Authorization Form

I/We the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of our son/daughter listed below hereby give my/our permission to participate in activities sponsored by First Lutheran Church, Fremont, Nebraska. This waiver includes transportation to and from First Lutheran sponsored events. I/We understand that will be notified as soon as possible in the event of an emergency, but in the event I/we cannot be contacted immediately, I/we also hereby authorize and consent to emergency first aid, to medical examination and to x-ray, anesthetic, medical, dental, or surgical diagnosis, treatments and care rendered by or under the general or special supervision of licensed medical personnel.

This authorization is given in advance of specific diagnosis, treatment, or hospital care required, and is given to provide authority and power to render such diagnosis, treatment, and care which is deemed advisable in the best judgment of a medical doctor. It is understood that no diagnosis, treatment, or care will be withheld if the undersigned cannot be reached.

I/We understand that all I/we will be liable and agree to pay all costs and expenses incurred in connection with such medical and dental services rendered to the aforementioned child pursuant to this authorization. Should it be necessary for our/my child to return home due to medical reasons or otherwise, I/we will assume all transportation costs as well.

In the event of illness or injury, I/We waive all claims now existing, known or unknown, or arising hereafter, and specially agree that First Lutheran Church, Fremont, Nebraska and any related employees or entity, their agents, and any volunteers connected with this activity are fully released from any and all liability and damages except for those arising from the negligent acts or omission of the church, its agents and employees, or activities leaders.

Name of Student:	Date of Birth:	Student Cell:
A dalaga a a .		
Parent/Guardian Name (printed):		
Home phone:	Cell Phone/email address:	
	Home Church:	
Parent(s) work phone(s):		
Parents(s) cell phones(s):		
Alternate person to contact:	Phor	ne ()
(include a copy of bot	h sides of your current insurance card	to be kept on record)
Family Health Insurance Provider/Pol	licy Number:	
Verification phone # () Date of Last Tetanus Shot:		Shot:
Family Doctor ()	Pho	ne ()
	cribed medications:	
and I/We hereby give deny _	permission for him/her to administer	r the medications to himself/herself.
My/Our child is allergic to:		
,,,		
Other special instructions:		
Parent/Guardian Signature:		Date:
-		
Parent/Guardian Signature:		Date:
Youth Signature:		Date [.]