Youth for Technology Foundation Student Acceptable Use Policy

Youth for Technology Foundation (YTF) offers students access to electronic information through its youth programs. Along with this access to computers and to people all over the world comes the availability of materials that may not be considered appropriate for use by youth of varying ages. Because it is impossible to control all materials available through the global network, YTF staff and parents/guardians of minors are ultimately responsible for setting and conveying the standards that students should follow when using these information resources. YTF supports each family's right to decide whether or not to allow their child to have access.

Access is a privilege, not a right.

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior when using YTF Internet services. Access to network services is offered to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner, and parent permission is required. Students must remember that others not on-site, including youth from other geographic locations, are YTF guests and be treated accordingly. Based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decisions are final. The administration and staff may revoke or suspend user access when these terms are violated.

Students will:

- use the Internet and YTF Internet services for educational purposes such as conducting research for assignments consistent with the YTF academic expectations
- use appropriate language—no swearing, vulgarities, abusive, discrimination, or intimidating language
- not express hatred, violence, threats, prejudice, slurs, or inappropriate gestures at any time, in any way
- not use gang-connected language, terms, motions, signs, symbols, or terms at any time in any way
- not use unacceptable, derogatory, or negative interactions such as bullying, put downs, blaming interactions, formats/symbols/shortened phrases that indicate yelling, and arguments
- use communication that is positive, peaceable, and professional: use of caps, bolded words, or other formats that are negative in expression are not allowed

Students will NOT:

- transmit or receive materials in violation of federal or state laws or regulations pertaining to copyrighted, threatening or obscene materials, including sexually explicit materials
- use YTF Internet services for personal or non-YTF commercial activities, product promotion, political lobbying, or illegal activities
- break into/attempt to break into another computer network
- damage/attempt to damage, move, or remove software, hardware or files
- use unauthorized multi-user games
- send or forward chain letters or spam email
- use unauthorized software products which adversely affect network performance
- create or share computer viruses
- share access to YTF accounts, their account, or use another person's account
- maliciously attempt to harm or destroy data of another user
- use network resources to otherwise violate acceptable use policies

- use YTF Internet/network services to disrupt the efficient operation and/or educational programs

YTF communications are not private, and may be reviewed by YTF personnel, or by someone appointed by them, to ensure that all guidelines are followed. Violation of the terms listed above will result in a loss of access to YTF Internet services and may result in other disciplinary action. Violators or parents of student violators may be subject to prosecution.