



Orthodox Christian School Ministries (OCSM)

OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY ORGANIZATION OF
THE COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN U.S.

susocsm.org

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Service is an honor with an inseparable responsibility, *“for this very reason,”* St. Peter teaches, *“giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”* (2 Peter 1:5-7)

As a community of school ministry student leaders and members, we are called to be extremely sensitive to causing others to stumble: *“...but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!”* (Matthew 18:7). Certainly no one is without sin, but due diligence is to be absolutely observed by all of us so as to avoid offending others: *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (2 Timothy 2:15)

Thus, we are bound to observe what the church teaches and expects of us without exception, and so to *“be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

The OCSM organization has adopted a Code of Ethics for all student leadership and members. Please read and familiarize yourself with this Code of Ethics, as all OCSM student leaders are expected to know and adhere to the guidance laid out herein.

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OCSM Code of Ethics

1. Introduction.

1.1 The Executive Board of Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries (“**OCSM**” or the “**Organization**”) has adopted this Code of Ethics (the “**Code**”) in order to:

- (a) promote honest and ethical conduct within our membership and uniformity in standards across chapters;
- (b) promote an accurate representation of the Orthodox Christian Faith and act as faithful ambassadors of Christ;
- (c) provide clarity as to the scope and subject matter to be covered on all public platforms; and
- (d) ensure accountability for adherence to the Code.

1.2 All executive officers, student leadership team, and chapter officers (collectively, the “**Organization Officers**”) as well as local chapter members are required to be familiar with the Code, comply with its provisions, and report any suspected violations as described below in **Section 6**, Reporting and Enforcement.

2. Honest and Ethical Conduct at Organizational Events.

2.1 The Organization's policy is to promote high standards of integrity by conducting its affairs honestly and ethically.

2.2 For the purposes of this provision, an event is any time there is an official or unofficial congregation of one or more OCSM member which:

- (a) is planned or communicated through the OCSM communication channels;
- (b) is communicated by word of mouth at an OCSM event; or
- (c) is communicated with an association with the Organization whether that be an implicit or explicit association.



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2.3 Each Organization Officer and member must act with integrity and observe the highest ethical standards of conduct in his or her dealings with the Organization's fellow members, visitors, event partners, students, and anyone else with whom he or she has contact in the course of performing his or her duty within OCSM.

2.4 Each Organization Officer and member must refrain from using inappropriate and profane language in his or her dealings with event attendees or with anyone.

2.5 Each Organization Officer and member must refrain from dancing, drinking alcoholic beverages, serving or eating non-fasting food while the Church is observing a fast, or exhibiting any other inappropriate behavior at the Organization's events.

3. Compliance.

3.1 Organization Officers and members should comply, both in letter and spirit, with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in the cities in which they are located as well as comply with all school rules and regulations while conducting Organizational duties.

3.2 Organization Officers and members should comply, both in letter and spirit, with all guidance and direction provided by the chapter's Clergy Advisor.

4. Social Media.

4.1 **All social media accounts associated with the Organization form the Organization's public image and effect the Organization's legal 501(c)(3) non-profit status.** Thus, all posts and communication on social media must be restricted according to the following provisions.

4.2 Social media accounts being addressed by this section are those used by each chapter to promote events, OCSM social media accounts under the SUS Coptic Orthodox Diocese's jurisdiction, and personal accounts when posting with the OCSM designation.

4.3 OCSM social media accounts should be strictly limited to promoting and spotlighting the events of the chapter, promoting events of other chapters, or liking or sharing OCSM material.



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Under no circumstance should these accounts be used to like/share personal posts, political posts, or promote any events not associated with the Organization.

5. Officer Conduct.

5.1 All Organization Officers are representatives of the Organization and of our Faith at-large. Officers should be mindful of the strong influence they may have on members and non-members alike.

5.2 All Organization Officers should be mindful of their public image and should strive to ensure that their personal image is in accordance with the church teachings and not materially or substantially deviant from our church's teachings. This additional consideration is due to an officer's larger responsibility of having to avoid being a stumbling block—again, many look to officers as representatives of the Faith putting officers in this unique position of influence.

6. Adherence to Code.

6.1 Reporting of Violations.

(a) Actions prohibited by this Code involving Organization Officers and members must be reported to the Clergy Advisor of the chapter.

(b) After reporting an incident, please refrain from disclosing information of the incident to any party other than the applicable Clergy Advisor to whom it was originally reported.

6.2 Additional Inquiries.

(a) For the avoidance of doubt, in the event that there is any uncertainty as to whether any behavior, action, or social media post does not adhere to the Code, a proactive inquiry to the Designee of the Metropolitan (reachable at admin@susocsm.org) must be made before the undertaking of the uncertain action.



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Acknowledgment of Receipt and Review

[To be signed and returned to the Designee of the Metropolitan {admin@susocsm.org}].

I, _____, acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of the OCSM Code of Ethics. I understand the contents of the Code and I agree to comply with the policies and procedures set out in the Code.

I understand that I should approach the Designee of the Metropolitan if I have any questions about the Code generally or any questions about reporting an inability to comply with the Code or any other violation of the Code.

[SIGNATURE]

[PRINTED NAME]

[DATE]

I, _____, the parent, custodian, and/or legal guardian of the minor listed above agree to his or her participation with OCSM including but not limited to regulations of OCSM and the religious beliefs of OCSM. I understand and agree that this is a religious based organization and I consent to the minor hearing the religious curriculum of OCSM.

[SIGNATURE]

[PRINTED NAME]

[DATE]