CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AUTHORIZED ADULTS/PROGRAM STAFF

You have been identified as an “Authorized Adult/Program Staff” for purposes of The University of Southern Mississippi’s Minors on Campus policy.

As an Authorized Adult/Program Staff, you are responsible for complying with the University’s Minors on Campus policy and the Code of Conduct contained therein, which is outlined below:

Authorized Adults should behave professionally and maintain the highest standards of personal behavior at all times. Authorized Adults participating in programs and activities covered by this Policy shall NOT:

a. Have one-on-one contact with minors: there must be two or more Authorized Adults present during activities where minors are present. One-on-one contact includes electronic communication. Therefore, Authorized Adults/Program Staff shall not have any direct electronic communications with minors without another Authorized Adult, parent, or legal guardian being included in the communication.

b. Enter a minor’s room, sleeping quarters, bathroom facility, changing area, shower area or similar area without another Authorized Adult in attendance, except under emergency circumstances.

c. Share sleeping quarters with minors. Separate accommodations for adults and minors are required other than the minors’ parents or guardians. Minors should be placed in accommodations that allow for a locked door between themselves and Program Staff.

d. Engage in abusive conduct of any kind toward, or in the presence of, a minor.

e. Strike, hit, administer corporal punishment to, or touch in an inappropriate or illegal manner any Minor.

f. Engage in rough or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.

g. Allow any inappropriate touching, including between minors.

h. Swear, use or respond to sexual innuendo or make sexually suggestive comments.

i. Pick up minors from or drop off minors at any location except as specifically authorized in writing by the minor’s parent or legal guardian. Two Authorized Adults should be in a vehicle with a minor if transportation is needed.
j. Provide alcohol or illegal drugs to any minor. Authorized Adults also must not provide prescription drugs or any medication to any minor unless specifically authorized in writing by the parent or legal guardian as being required for the minor’s care or the minor’s emergency treatment. Participants’ medicines may be distributed by Program Staff, following the conditions outlined in this policy.

k. Make sexual material in any form, including printed and electronic, available to minors participating in programs or activities covered by this Policy or assist them in any way in gaining access to such materials.

l. Give personal gifts to, or do special favors for, a minor or do things that may be seen as favoring one minor over others. Likewise, expensive gifts should not be accepted from any minor in the program.

m. Tell a minor “this is just between the two of us” or use similar language that encourages minors to keep secrets from their parent/guardians.