



The Episcopal Church of
St. Peter &
St. Paul

Acolyte Guidelines

Acolytes are part of the worship team – the clergy, choir and musicians, vergers, lay eucharistic ministers, readers and intercessors – who together with the entire congregation join in worshiping God. Together we hear and receive God's Word and Sacraments. Acolytes add dignity and majesty to the service.

The Episcopal Church of St. Peter & St. Paul has a large and active acolyte program. It provides you, as an acolyte, an opportunity to participate up close in the liturgy, which means the work of the people – all the people, youth and adults alike.

These are the key guidelines you need to understand and follow as an acolyte. Please go over them with your parents/guardians so you understand and agree.

COMMITMENT: By becoming an acolyte, you understand and agree that you are expected to perform the duties of your office and assignments faithfully, reverently and seriously, as a personal commitment of your time and talent in the service of the Lord. You are to be willing, sincere, prompt, regular in attendance, alert to your duties, and reverent in worship.

TRAINING: Acolyte training will be scheduled from time to time for both new and experienced acolytes. You agree to participate in all scheduled training sessions.

CONDUCT: Serving as an acolyte, you are a minister of the Eucharist or service in which you are serving. You are expected to participate in the liturgy by responding to the prayers, reciting the Creed and Lord's Prayer, and singing the hymns. *You are to avoid talking, whispering, and unnecessary movements, such as swinging your cincture.* Other worshipers can see you, and inappropriate movements are a distraction.

APPEARANCE: Keep the vestments clean and orderly by hanging them up after each use in the correct order. If vestments are stained or dirty, bring them to the attention of the acolyte masters or vergers.

DO wear **dark shoes and appropriate "church clothes."** **DO NOT** wear **shorts, tee shirts, blue jeans, flip-flops, sneakers, or sandals;** girls should not wear (very) high heel shoes.

ATTENDANCE: You are expected to: (1) fulfill your acolyte assignments as scheduled, or (2) arrange an appropriate substitute if you will not be able to serve as scheduled.

PUNCTUALITY: Be on time. That means be in the vesting room and vested by **20 minutes before the service begins.**



THANK YOU for your willingness to serve and to help make the service a special occasion for all worshipers at St. Peter & St. Paul!