



FALLS CREEK YOUTH CAMP

Camper Safety Guide

The desire and goal of Falls Creek Youth Camp is Gospel impact. Any established guidelines enhance efforts to see the lost saved, believers grow, and the church strengthened while keeping all involved as safe as possible. Falls Creek Youth Camp seeks to provide an atmosphere of joy, enthusiasm, and safety. Leaders are entrusted to shepherd their group which includes protecting their students, adults, and churches over which they have responsibility. The following guidelines for camper safety provide parameters for protection and offer the due diligence that accompanies leadership.

CAMPER SAFETY

ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY

Falls Creek Youth Camp is committed to a positive, uplifting, Christian environment. Falls Creek Youth Camp does not tolerate and expressly prohibits sexual harassment and sexual abuse. This policy applies to everyone at Falls Creek Youth Camp, including employees, board members, volunteers, sponsors, campers, contractors, and vendors of Falls Creek Youth Camp. Suspected violations of this policy are to be reported immediately to the Falls Creek Program or Conference Center Director. Upon review by the Director, suspected violators of this policy will be removed from the grounds of Falls Creek Conference Centers. Employees of Oklahoma Baptists who are suspected of violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment and criminal prosecution may ensue. Suspected abuse or neglect of a minor, whether on or off Falls Creek Conference Centers property or whether perpetrated by Falls Creek Youth Camp personnel or others, will be reported to state authorities, as required by law. All Falls Creek Youth Camp staff have completed and cleared a background check, and have been screened and vetted in accordance with Oklahoma Baptists child safety and predator recognition training.

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ATTENDING CHURCHES:

Falls Creek Youth Camp requires that each church perform background checks on all participants 18 years of age or older attending with their group. Falls Creek honors background checks for 18 months from the date of the check.

Background check reports must include:

- A National Criminal database check
- A National Registry of Sex Offenders check
- A County and/or State Criminal Court search
- A Social Security trace/verification.

Below is a list of **REQUIRED SERVICE PROVIDERS** for these checks. Churches must use one of these providers. These providers all charge a fee for their services; check with each service provider for pricing. (NOTE: All background checks must be completed through these providers by summer of 2025.) Any new checks for 2024 must be completed through a required provider. Contact the Falls Creek Youth Camp program office with any questions.

REQUIRED SERVICE PROVIDERS

SHIELD SCREENING (FALLS CREEK PACKAGE)

www.shieldscreening.com | 800-260-3738

MINISTRY SAFE (FALLS CREEK PACKAGE)

www.ministrysafe.com | 833-737-7233

PROTECT MY MINISTRY (BASIC PLUS PACKAGE)

www.protectmyministry.com | 800-319-5581

CHECKR

www.checkr.com

TRAK-1 CHECKS

www.trak-1.com | 800-600-8999

FLAGGING BACKGROUND CHECKS

Each church is responsible to review the background checks that are run on their adult leaders and students 18 and older and make determinations regarding each person's suitability for service. In order to help you as a church to make these determinations, we are providing you with a list of RED FLAG and YELLOW FLAG offenses. These lists are thorough, but not exhaustive.

Red Flag Offenses

If any of the following offenses are reposted on a potential adult leader's background check, you should not use that person as an adult leader at camp.

- Providing alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or pornography to a minor
- Voyeurism (peeping Tom)
- Contributing to the delinquency of a minor
- Criminal solicitation of a minor
- Public Indecency
- Exhibitionism (flashing)
- Assault
- Sexual Assault (or any crime that is sexual in nature)
- Homicide
- False Imprisonment
- Kidnapping
- Injury to a child/elderly individual/disabled individual
- Abandoning or endangering a child
- Leaving a child in a vehicle
- Matters related to interference with child custody
- Failure to stop or report the aggravated sexual assault of a child

Yellow Flag Offenses (YFO)

This is a list of felony and misdemeanor offenses. Having one of these offenses appear on a person's check will not automatically disqualify them from being an adult leader. However, the church who brings a person, whose check reveals a YFO, must also complete a YFO Acknowledgment Form for that person. The YFO Acknowledgment Form will serve as a document stating that the church is aware of the Yellow Flag Offenses found on the person's background check, is willing to take responsibility for the individual, and has determined the person suitable to serve as an adult leader for their church at Falls Creek Youth Camp. The YFO Acknowledgment Form is available in the Field Guide and in your Digital Leader Kit.

YFOs will include any of the following felony or misdemeanor offenses:

- Driving under the influence
- Possession/Distribution of a controlled substance
- Making a firearm accessible to a child
- Theft, including identity theft

BACKGROUND CHECK COMPLIANCE

Here are some important reminders about background checks for Falls Creek Youth Camp:

- ALL churches will complete background checks through a required service provider. Background checks are valid for 18 months from time of completion.
- Each church is responsible for the information contained in the reports and will maintain the privacy of those reports.
- ALL churches are required to agree to compliance checks by submitting ALL background check report forms* for ALL adult leaders.
- This will take place either:
Monday of their camp week at onsite registration
or
through pre-screening no later than two weeks before their scheduled arrival at Falls Creek Youth Camp.

NOTE: At onsite registration, churches must present the documents listed below for verification by designated Oklahoma Baptists staff members:

- Completed Adult Background Check Compliance Form on ALL adult leaders
- If not pre-screened, leaders must present a copy of each up-to-date report form for all adult leaders who have current, completed background checks for onsite compliance check.
- Completed Student Background Check Compliance Form, along with a folder containing a copy of the report forms for all students 18 years of age or older at the time of camp or during their week of camp. Staff will count and check names for verification.
- All other required onsite registration documents.

*A report form is the page of each background check containing the subject's name, clearly showing each of the required checks has been completed, and including a list of any offenses discovered during the check.

Adult and Student Background Check Compliance Forms are available in your Field Guide and in your Digital Leader Kit.

PRE-SCREENING PROCESS

If you wish to expedite your time at onsite registration on Monday of your camp week, you may submit your background check reports for pre-screening no later than two weeks before your arrival at camp. Instructions for pre-screening can be found in your Digital Leader Kit inside your online registration.

ONSITE BACKGROUND CHECKS

If a part-time participant (ages 18 and over) arrives and needs a background check, the Conference Center will complete the check on the individual (at the individual or church's expense). This check must be completed before 2:00pm on the first day of their planned overnight stay. Checks will not be submitted after 2:00pm. Anyone arriving after 2:00pm without a completed background check will not be permitted to stay on grounds overnight.

RECRUITING ADULT LEADERS/COOKS

Adult leaders set the tone for the week. If an adult leader has a great attitude, students will have a great week at camp. If adult leaders are godly role models and use their influence wisely for the Kingdom, there will be more spiritual impact during the week. Please only recruit and take adult leaders who encourage your students toward the goals of camp.

By attending Falls Creek Youth Camp, your church acknowledges that it is responsible for the selection and supervision of your adult leaders and further warrants that it has exercised due diligence in the selection of these adult leaders.

Each church is required to appoint a group leader. The group leader is responsible for the group and serves as the church contact person during the week. This person is typically the youth minister, senior pastor, or lay person (only in the absence of a youth minister or pastor) designated as the youth leader at their church.

WHO IS CONSIDERED AN ADULT LEADER?

Adult Leaders must be individuals at least 18 years of age and one year removed from high school. NOTE: Register all adult leaders (including cooks) in the registration system. If anyone serves as a cook who is not at least 18 years of age and one year removed from high school, register them as a student.

CHURCHES MUST PROVIDE:

- At least one male and one female adult leader.
- A minimum of one adult leader for every ten youth in their group. (This will be verified at onsite registration)
- If sharing a cabin with another group, adult leaders may be combined to meet the ratio.



MINISTRY SAFE TRAINING

Groups will experience added camper safety measures including mandatory Ministry Safe CAMP training and Peer-to-peer training. In addition:

1. One other adult leader (opposite gender of the group leader) must complete peer-to-peer training. Use the link inside of your online registration to access training.
2. Churches are encouraged to have as many adult leaders as possible complete the training.
3. The additional peer-to-peer training does not have to be completed to move on in the registration process, but it must be completed before arriving at camp.

ADULT LEADER EXPECTATIONS

Adult leaders attending Falls Creek Youth Camp should adhere to the expectations listed below:

- Set the moral and spiritual example for the group.
- Model and enforce the camp code of conduct and dress code.
- Ensure the attendance of their students at BOTH worship services each day. Do not send groups of students without adult supervision from your group.
- Participate in the daily in-cabin Bible study and evening devotion times.
- When possible during the week, equip and encourage students to follow Christ in their daily lives.
- Spend time with students in their cabin to hear their salvation story and/or to share Christ with them.
- Have at least one adult leader/staff member from their church attend the daily adult leader meeting Tuesday-Friday in Massey Chapel (north side of the tabernacle).

PROPERLY SELECTING ADULT LEADERS

All churches are required to run background checks on their adult leaders, however, background checks are only a small part of a thorough adult leader selection process.

Group leaders should consider the following questions when selecting adult leaders for youth camp:

- **Are they associated with your church?** It is often tempting to select people you know well to serve as adult leaders, but who have little to no connection to your church. You need to be aware that it is better to select qualified leaders from your congregation than to outsource this type of help. People who are not associated with your church do not always act as responsibly with the church in mind, as those who are significantly invested in your congregation.
- **How long has this person been a member of your church?** Have they recently joined your congregation? It would be important for you to be able to observe their life and character for at least a minimum of six to eight months before considering using them as adult leaders.
- **How well do you know them?** Are these people you have known for at least a year? They may be new members to your church, but you may have known them much longer and can vouch for their character. Do others speak highly of them and is their observable character above reproach?
- **Do they enjoy being around students?** Do they currently work with students in your ministry and have a good rapport with students and other volunteers? Do they observe good boundaries in their relationships with students? Do they seem too strict or too permissive? Have they agreed to abide by the requirements set forth by the church and camp leadership?