



CROSSTIMBERS MISSION ADVENTURE CAMP

Camper Safety Guide

The desire and goal of CrossTimbers 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. CrossTimbers seeks to provide an atmosphere of joy, enthusiasm, and safety. Leaders are entrusted to shepherd their group which includes protecting their children, 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

CrossTimbers is committed to a positive, uplifting, Christian environment. CrossTimbers does not tolerate and expressly prohibits sexual harassment and sexual abuse. This policy applies to everyone at CrossTimbers, including employees, board members, volunteers, sponsors, campers, contractors, and vendors of CrossTimbers. Suspected violations of this policy are to be reported immediately to the CrossTimbers Program or Conference Center Director. Upon review by the Director, suspected violators of this policy will be removed from the grounds of CrossTimbers 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 CrossTimbers Conference Centers property or whether perpetrated by CrossTimbers personnel or others, will be reported to state authorities, as required by law. All CrossTimbers 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:

CrossTimbers requires that each church perform background checks on all participants 18 years of age or older attending with their group. CrossTimbers 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 CrossTimbers 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 sponsors 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 reported on a potential sponsor's background check, you should not use that person as a sponsor 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 sponsor. 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 sponsor for their church at CrossTimbers. The YFO Acknowledgment Form is available in the forms section of our website: www.oklahomabaptists.org/crosstimbers.

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 CrossTimbers:

- 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 sponsors digitally through Ministry Safe at least two weeks prior to the first day of their camp session.**
- At on-site registration, churches must present the completed Adult Background Check Compliance Form for ALL sponsors. The Adult Background Check Compliance Form is available in the forms section of our website www.oklahomabaptists.org/crosstimbers.

*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.

**In the event of a last-minute sponsor change, his/her background check will need to be submitted to our office via email before they are allowed on campus.

RECRUITING SPONSORS

Sponsors (adult leaders) set the tone for the session. If a sponsor has a great attitude, campers will have a great time at camp. If sponsors are godly role models and use their influence wisely for the Kingdom, there will be more spiritual impact during the session. Please only recruit and take sponsors who encourage your campers toward the goals of camp.

By attending CrossTimbers, your church acknowledges that it is responsible for the selection and supervision of your sponsors and further warrants that it has exercised due diligence in the selection of these sponsors.

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

WHO IS CONSIDERED A SPONSOR?

Sponsors must be individuals at least 18 years of age.

CHURCHES MUST PROVIDE

- A 5:1 Camper/Sponsor ratio of the same gender while at camp
 - This will be verified through the submission of a completed Sponsor and Camper List 72 hours prior to the start of your session. This form will be emailed to the lead sponsor.
- In addition to this ratio, there must be at least two adult sponsors of the same gender per 12 person dorm/room.



MINISTRY SAFE TRAINING

Groups will experience added camper safety measures including mandatory Ministry Safe CAMP training in order to receive your church's Sponsor Form and Camper Form.

- Each Lead Sponsor must complete the Ministry Safe CAMP training in order to receive your church's Sponsor Form and Camper Form.
- Each Lead Sponsor must also complete Peer-to-Peer training prior to the start of camp. This link will be provided via email.
- One other sponsor (opposite gender of the Lead Sponsor) must complete peer-to-peer training. A link will be sent to the email provided on the Sponsor Form by the Lead Sponsor.
- Churches are encouraged to have as many sponsors as possible complete the peer-to-peer training.
- 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.

SPONSOR EXPECTATIONS

Sponsors attending CrossTimbers 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 campers to all scheduled activities. Do not send groups of campers without adult supervision from your group.
- Participate in the morning and evening devotion times.
- When possible during the week, equip and encourage campers to follow Christ in their daily lives.
- Spend time with campers to hear their salvation story and/or to share Christ with them.

PROPERLY SELECTING SPONSORS

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

Lead Sponsors should consider the following questions when selecting sponsors for youth camp:

- **Are they associated with your church?** It is often tempting to select people you know well to serve as sponsors, 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 sponsors.
- **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 children?** Do they currently work with children in your ministry and have a good rapport with students and other volunteers? Do they observe good boundaries in their relationships with children? Do they seem too strict or too permissive? Have they agreed to abide by the requirements set forth by the church and camp leadership?