



CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY
SUMMER CAMP 2017



BEACH CAMP

JULY 16-21

JULY 23-28

JULY 30-AUGUST 4

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Please Note: This booklet is meant to provide basic information to parents and campers. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office.



Cross Trails Ministry
391 Upper Turtle Creek Road
Kerrville, TX 78028
(830) 257-6340
info@crosstrails.org
www.crosstrails.org

Welcome to Camp

Dear Camper and Parents,

Come to Texas Trek and experience all God has created! There are so many opportunities we have to see what God has given us, but sometimes we have to step out of what we're used to in order to appreciate it.

The colorful church calendar repeats itself, but what does it all mean? Campers will explore Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost learning their origins and what we do to celebrate today.

We are learning that every single day that God has created presents itself as an opportunity for us. There is so much to share and appreciate, and so much creation to explore, and this summer we will have a ton of fun doing exactly that!

Camp provides so many opportunities for growth. By coming to camp this summer you will grow in your relationship with Christ, and also grow as a leader and servant in your home community.

We are looking forward to your arrival this summer and we can't wait to be a part of your faith journey. We are praying for you and your safe travels this summer. If you need anything, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Blessings,

Fred Klinker
Adventure Director



Our Mission

***The Mission of Cross Trails Ministry
is to provide unique settings & experiences
in which youth, adults & families
are strengthened in their relationship
with Christ, each other, the church and community.***

Paperwork & Payment

In order to complete your child's registration, the following items need to be sent or submitted to our office by May 1st. Please send these items to Registrar; Cross Trails Ministry; 391 Upper Turtle Creek Road; Kerrville, TX 78028. If your child is coming with a group, your group leader may wish to collect these. Please remember, financial aid Camperships are available. Contact our office for more information.

- Balance Due. If your child is coming as an individual, an invoice will be mailed to you. If your child is coming as part of a group, an invoice was sent to your congregation in April. Contact your pastor or youth leader to determine if you owe any additional money.
- Health History Form—**signed or submitted online**
If you submit this form online, please send a copy of your insurance card with your child.
- Cross Trails Ministry Release Form—**signed or submitted online**
- Group Photo and Summer Video Order Form—Optional—New this year, we will be taking a group photo each week that can be used as a souvenir for our campers. Order one at the beginning of the week to guarantee you get one!
We are sorry, but because of limited resources, there will not be a DVD produced of your Beach Camp week.

The Pollock Center

All campers and staff will be staying at the Pollock Center in Port Aransas. The center is operated by Community Presbyterian Church. It is a two story, multi-purpose building equipped with A/C, kitchen and separate sleeping and shower areas for males and females. All campers will sleep on cots provided by Cross Trails. The Pollock Center is conveniently within walking distance of the beach, Bible study areas and shopping.

Arrival:

Campers may arrive at the Pollock Center between 3 and 5 pm on the first day of their camp session. Because our staff has other responsibilities, we can not accept early arrivals. Older youth campers may not drive themselves to camp. They must be brought to camp by a responsible adult.

Please factor possible long lines for the ferry into your travels if you choose to take that route. Two sets of directions can be found in the back of this handbook.

Departure:

To ensure camper's safety, our policy requires that all campers be signed out by a person designated on the Health History Form. Please note this portion of the form.

Camp ends at 2:30 pm on Friday. Family and friends are welcome to come at 1:30 pm and join our closing worship. Please arrive to pick up campers no later than 2:30 pm.

Contacting Your Camper

We encourage camper families to contact their campers during their stay. However, non-emergency visits or phone calls are disruptive to the camp program. So please plan to write letters or email your camper.

Letters:

Some parents choose to write letters and postcards prior to the camp week, and leave them with the camp staff to distribute. If you would like to write to your camper from home, please mail very early. Write to: (Camper Name and Program), Community Presbyterian Church, 113 S Alister St, Port Aransas TX 78373. Faxes to campers will not be accepted.

Email:

Campers can receive email! Campers will be able to read the email daily during mail call. Because office space is limited, campers will not have access to the computer to reply. Email with attachments, including photos, will not be accepted.

This summer, we are using a system to regulate our email to protect us from viruses and to help cover the cost of printing each email to pass it along to the camper. To email your camper, you'll need to set up a Bunk1 account:

1. Go to our website at www.crosstrails.org (Click on Summer Camp and find Connect to Campers)
2. Click the "Camper Email" button - This will direct you to a new site
3. Click "Need an Account or have an invitation code"
4. Enter your information and the "Invitation Code": **CROSSTRAILS2017**
5. Fill out all the required information
6. Purchase Bunk Note credits—You will need a credit card
7. Send an email to your camper!

You will only need to register once and once you register you will be able to invite others to use these services.

Bunk Replies:

New this summer, campers will be able to respond to you more quickly than writing a letter! Here's how it works:

1. Purchase credits through Bunk1—the same process as Camper Email
2. Use the credits for Bunk Reply Stationary—send this stationary with your camper to camp or include it in an email you send to them
3. Campers will hand write replies and give it to camp staff
4. Camp staff will send the reply to Bunk1 and it will be uploaded to your Bunk1 Account.

If you are purchasing stationary, please let campers know you would like them to fill it out. It is not camp's responsibility to have your camper fill out the Bunk Reply.

In Case of Emergency:

In case of emergency, please call (512) 296-8000. If you do not reach the director, please call our main office at 830-257-6340. If you call during non-business hours, please know that the office line is checked regularly for messages. If there is a life or death emergency after 11 pm, call our Chrysalis Health Center at (830) 792-4868.

Daily Schedule at Camp

The schedule at beach camp changes daily.

To meet the objectives of Beach Camp, each day contains 5 basic components:

- Bible study which has an evangelism focus
- Time at the beach to relax and have fun
- An opportunity to explore and learn about nature and the beach community
- Activities to build relationships such as All Camp games, crafts, and crew responsibilities
- Worship and devotions to focus on God and experience faith leadership

Various activities include going to the beach, shopping trips, a Dolphin watching boat tour, and more. Campers can also choose some of their activities such as fishing, boogie boarding, and sea shell hunting. Some activities will be limited or cancelled if the weather is poor.

The following is a sample schedule. Each day is unique and the schedule will change depending on weather and other special circumstances.

8:00	Breakfast
8:45	Staff/Sponsor Meeting and Crew Chores
9:00	Sonrise Worship
10:00	Bible Study & Evangelism Activity
12:00	Lunch & KP, Low Tide Quiet Time
1:30	Beach Time
5:00	Shower/Clean up
6:00	Dinner & KP
7:30	All Camp Activity
9:00	Sonset Worship
9:45	Snack
10:00	Crew Devotions
11:00	Lights Out



Online & Camp Photos

Online Photos:

Parents will be able to view online photos of camp during the week. A few photos of each day will be updated overnight for viewing the next day. For pictures, you will need to set up a Bunk1 account. Please follow the instructions under camper email (page 4). Viewing pictures is free and each high quality photo download is \$0.99. For your camper's safety, pictures are password protected. The password will be emailed to your family email the week before your camp session.

Group Photo:

Upon arrival, campers and parents may purchase a group photo for their week of camp. It will be an 8x10 photo and will have all campers, staff, and information about the week printed on it. Campers who order this will receive it prior to going home. Cost—\$5.00

Meals & Snacks

Cross Trails Ministry strives to provide nutritious and satisfying meals. Food is an integral part of our program. Campers come together as a community to share a meal and fellowship. Because we are an intentional Christian community, campers are encouraged to mingle and meet new people. As a community, campers take turns serving each other by serving meals, cleaning up after meals and washing dishes.

Should your camper not like what is being served, options are available, including cereal at breakfast and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at lunch and dinner.

The following is a sample menu for a typical camp day.

Breakfast — Pancakes, bacon, cereal, milk, fruit & juice.

Lunch — Sandwich bar, macaroni salad, salad bar, cookies, decaf tea & water.

Supper — Lasagna, garlic bread, broccoli, salad bar, cake, punch, milk, and water.

Snack — Rice Crispy Treats.

For special dietary needs, please specify on the health form. Campers often expend more energy at camp than at home. For this reason campers are encouraged to eat an appropriate amount of food.

Sun Safety

Beach campers will be spending a lot of time outdoors in the sun.

Our staff will strongly encourage all campers to apply and re-apply sunscreen at regular intervals.

However, it is important that campers also take responsibility for themselves in this area. We ask all parents to stress the importance of using sunscreen constantly in this setting, regardless of skin tone or history of burning. Campers should also be prepared to wear protective clothing, hats and sunglasses.

It will also be important that all campers drink a lot of water to stay hydrated. All campers will be issued a water bottle when they arrive. They will be reminded regularly drink water and refill their bottle whenever possible.



What to Bring

Below is a list of things to bring to camp this summer.
Please put your name on everything!

- Bible
- Sleeping Bag, Sheet and Pillow
- Towel & Washcloth
- Soap & Shampoo
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Other Toiletries
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) & Chapstick
- Shirts & Shorts—at least one per day of camp
- Underwear & Socks
- 1 Pair of Long Pants
- 2 Pairs of Tennis Shoes
- Light Jacket or Sweatshirt
- Lightweight Rain Coat or Poncho
- Flashlight with Batteries
- Combination Lock for Locker
- Prescription Medications *in their Original Bottle*
- Copy of Your Insurance Card—*If you have not submitted one yet.*
- Bunk Notes Stationery (optional)
- Money for Offering (optional)
- Notebook, Pen, Envelopes & Stamps (optional)
- Money for Shopping Trips (optional)
- Camera (optional)
- Fishing Pole (optional)
- Boogie Board (optional)
- Sunglasses
- Sun Hat or Cap
- Swim Towels
- 2 Modest Swim Suits
- Sandals or Beach Shoes



Dress Code

All clothing should be appropriate for a church camp setting. Clothing should not have messages with double meanings or advertisements for adult themed products.

Shirts must cover the entire stomach and may not be strapless, spaghetti strapped or split sides. Tank tops are fine.

Shorts must be an appropriate length as to cover the buttocks, no shorter than the fingertips with arms and hands extended down the sides.

Bathing suits must be modest. For girls tankinis and one piece bathing suits are recommended. No string bikinis or thong swimwear are permitted. For boys, no speedos are permitted. While at the beach, a camp t-shirt will be issued for those campers who do not bring appropriate swimwear.

Should a camper be dressed inappropriately, the camper will be asked to change into more appropriate clothing.

What Not to Bring

In order to keep in the camping spirit, please leave the following items at home. If these items are brought to camp, they will be labeled and stored by staff for the duration of the camp session. Our insurance does not cover personal belongings.

- x Pets - Not even to pick up or drop off times
- x Cell phones
- x I-Pods / MP3 players
- x Laptops / Tablets
- x Radios / Walkman
- x PSP / Nintendo DS
- x TV's
- x Food / Gum / Candy
- x Hair dryers
- x Curling Irons / Flat Irons
- x Weapons
- x Pocket Knives
- x Personal Sports Equipment—except boogie boards and fishing poles
- x Tobacco Products
- x Alcohol or Illegal Drugs
- x Over the Counter Drugs
- x Anything Valuable

Cross Trails Ministry reserves the right to search a camper's belongings in special circumstances.

At Cross Trails the small groups that we form for the week a very important part of the camp experience. We strive to build an intentional Christian community in which everyone has the opportunity to be included, develop friendships and learn independence in a safe environment.

We have found that cell phones make this process more difficult for two reasons. First, most cell phones are able to access the internet quickly and take photographs and videos. Although we cannot control what participants post after camp, we want to limit opportunities for images of your camper to be put onto the internet without your permission. We also want to make sure your child is not shown anything on the internet that you would not want them to see. Second, if campers are able to constantly connect to those outside the camp community, they tend to not fully participate in camp and miss the opportunities they have to grow.

We know that being disconnected from your camper is difficult, but we want this to be a safe learning and growing opportunity. For that reason, we ask that cell phones to be left at home. If they are brought to camp, we will collect them and securely store them until the end of the camp session.

Money Matters

Because Cross Trails Ministry and the Pollock Center are not responsible for money kept by the camper during the camp week, we ask campers to keep their money in a locker at the Pollock Center. All campers should bring a combination lock for their locker.

In deciding how much to bring, please remember that all meals and two snacks a day will be provided by Cross Trails Ministry as well as a water bottle for use during the week. However, we recommend that campers bring some money to camp.

At the beach in Port Aransas, there are a few small stores that sell refreshments and rent boogie boards and fishing equipment. Rental prices range from \$5 to \$15 per day with a \$10 to \$30 deposit. Fishing licenses are also available for purchase and are required for anyone over age 17.

Campers will also have a chance to venture as a group into the beach community of Port Aransas for some shopping and sightseeing.

Finally, Cross Trails Ministry will have some mementos of camp for sale at prices ranging from \$12 to \$15. Checks for camp store purchases may be made payable to Cross Trails Ministry. Visa, Mastercard and Discover Card are accepted.

Summer Offering

Cross Trails Ministry wants to give each camper an opportunity to serve once they go home. One of those ways is partnering with an organization that is in a lot of communities around the United States. Meals on Wheels is a community based program that has volunteers deliver meals to people who are homebound. Many of the people who require Meals on Wheels are elderly, people with a disability, or are recovering from hospital care. Volunteers deliver not only needed meals, but also companionship and hospitality to people in need.

How can our campers help if they don't have a driver license? There are lots of ways. We are taking a monetary donation from all of our campers to be able to send to Meals on Wheels programs in Central Texas to better our communities. Campers will also learn the effects of aging and how they can show hospitality to people in various stages of life. Campers often feel like they cannot relate to older generations, but with this learning opportunity and some interactive activities, campers will feel more comfortable. This will allow our campers to join in with a driver in their own communities, once they return home, giving them an option of serving and another way to show Christ's love.

Camper Expectations & Guidelines

It is our priority to take care of the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of both the individual and the group. In order to do this we have established some basic guidelines and expectations for campers.

Some camper expectations are:

1. Explore your faith.
2. Try new things and learn new skills.
3. Be an active part of the Christian camp community.

Some camper guidelines are:

1. Respect others by using only appropriate language, clothing, actions and physical contact.
2. Respect your cabin mates privacy, personal space and possessions.
3. Respect and care for the camp facilities and natural environment.
4. Respect your safety by staying within camp boundaries, using the buddy system, and telling a staff member if, at any time, you feel unsafe.
5. Respect the rules shared with all campers on the first day of camp and those given at specific activity areas during the camp week.

Camper Consequences

Our staff practice positive behavior management and work with their campers to build communication and cooperation within the group. If a camper breaks a rule or fails to follow the camper guidelines, our staff work with him or her to define what the appropriate behavior would have been and to determine the appropriate consequences for their actions.

If a camper continues to break rules, or becomes disruptive to the camp program, he or she will meet with the Director to develop a written agreement on appropriate behavior called a behavior contract. Parents will be contacted if their child is placed on a behavior contract. If the behavior contract is broken, parents will be required to come pick up their camper.

Campers may be sent home at any time, even for a first offense or without a behavior contract, if the Director and Co-Executive Directors determine that the camper poses an emotional or physical threat to themselves, other campers or staff.

If your camper is attending with a pastor or youth director, this adult will be involved in the behavior management strategy.

Health & Wellness

For the safety of your child, your camper cannot be at camp without a completed **Health History Form**. Please fill this out as completely as possible. This can be found online and can also be printed off of our website. Please submit it online or mail it to camp by May 1, 2017. Be certain to sign it. This gives our on-call nurse time to review it and ask any questions they need to.

If you submit the form online, please send a copy of your insurance card with your child to camp. If you submit a paper form, you should include it with your form.

If anything changes with your child's health in the month prior to camp, please call our office at (830) 257-6340.

If your child has any unusual emotional, mental or physical concerns, please contact our office to speak with the Director regarding any accommodations that may need to be made.

Upon their arrival at camp, all campers visit the Adventure Director. At this time, all medications are checked in and all campers are screened for lice, athlete's foot and any pre-existing conditions that may affect their participation in camp activities. Please note there is no RN at beach camp, but we do have one on call and the staff are trained in emergency first aid.

If your child takes prescription medication, it must be brought to camp and turned in to the Adventure Director in its original container with the dosage instructions. We can not administer medications without dosage instructions or differently from the instructions on the bottle. Campers should not bring non-prescription medication. We keep plenty in stock. Simply indicate which ones we can give your child on the health history.

In the event of minor camper injury or illness, it is Cross Trails Ministry's policy to treat the camper in basic first aid. If the injury or illness prevents campers from participating in normal camp activities, parents will be notified to inform them of the situation and of treatment given.

In the event of serious camper injury or illness, it is Cross Trails Ministry's policy to notify parents by phone. If emergency treatment is deemed necessary, the camper will be taken to the emergency room and treated by a physician. Your insurance company will be responsible for the cost of any injury to or illness of your child while at camp. Cross Trails Ministry carries secondary accident insurance only.

If a camper is attending with a pastor or sponsor, this adult may be consulted and involved in treatment of the camper.

Tips for Preventing Homesickness

Many campers, whether first timers or returning, will experience some feelings of homesickness. This is normal for all ages. Homesickness can show itself through physical symptoms, strong emotions, or both. It is often strongest early in the week, and at meals, rest and bedtime.

Our goal is to help your camper be successful in their time away from home. Campers who are homesick are encouraged to be involved and active in camp activities. They are encouraged to write and talk about their feelings, but not focus on them.

By staying at camp and participating, even if they are homesick, campers gain confidence in their abilities and a healthy sense of independence.

Parents of campers whose homesickness is severe or disruptive to the camp environment will be contacted.

Help set your camper up for success!

Do's

1. Make sure your camper knows that you think he or she will have a wonderful time.
2. Talk openly with your child about homesickness. Explain that it is normal to miss home, but you know they can handle it.
3. Encourage your camper to bring a non-valuable security item to camp — such as a blanket, stuffed animal or photograph.
4. Write encouraging and enthusiastic letters to be delivered while at camp. Let your camper know you want them to have a good time and are looking forward to hearing about their new experiences.
5. For younger children, make sure your child knows how to take care of his or her own basic personal needs and hygiene. Make sure your camper knows where to find everything in the items you pack for camp.

Don'ts

1. Don't worry too much. Most homesick children are still having a positive experience. They write home when they feel sad, yet are happy most of the day.
2. Don't tell your child you will call or visit during the camp week. If you are worried that your child is homesick, you can call the camp and ask the director to check on your child for you.
3. Don't emphasize how much you will, or do miss your camper, either when saying goodbye or when writing letters.
4. Don't promise to pick up your child immediately if he or she feels homesick. Your camper may never give camp a chance.
5. Don't emphasize homesickness so much that your child expects to be severely homesick.
6. Don't let campers have cell phones. Don't encourage the camper to call home or to hide their cell phone so they can call if they are not having a good time. This teaches them it is okay to break rules and often they will not give camp a chance.

Upcoming Events

Lutheran Camp Chrysalis

Family & Friends Labor Day Retreat — September 1-4, 2017

Upper Elementary Advent Retreat (Grades 3-6) — December 2-4, 2017

Family Advent Festival — November 24-26, December 8-10, and December 15-17, 2017

Ebert Ranch Camp

Mother/Daughter Retreat — October 13-15, 2017

Father/ Son "Dangerous" Retreat—October 20-22, 2017

Grades 4-6

Lutheran Fall Festival in Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg Markt Platz — September 16, 2017

Year Round Retreating

Ebert Ranch and Camp Chrysalis are open year-round for your use. If you have a group that wants to come to camp, simply contact us and we will help you plan your event.

Who can come?

Anyone. Youth groups, church councils, sewing guilds, scouting troops, service groups, family reunions. Anyone.

When can you come?

Camp is open year round. Contact us to reserve your dates. Retreats can be for an afternoon, a weekend or during the week.

What does camp provide?

We can provide as little or as much as you need. We offer housing, meals, campfires, Bible studies, worships, challenge course activities, canoeing, horseback riding, games and more. Let us work with you.

Why come to camp?

Groups come for many reasons. Some want to learn more about each other and create a bonded group. Others want to get away for a meeting or to accomplish a task. Some want to serve by completing work projects. Others want to take advantage of the many activities we offer. What is your reason?



Directions to Camp

**Pollock Center
113 S. Alister
Port Aransas, TX 78373**

(Directions via Ferry)

From Central Texas:

Take I-10 East to I-37 South
Exit US 181/TX-35 towards Portland
Merge onto US-181 North
US 181 becomes TX-35 East
Follow TX-35 BRS to TX-361
TX 361 become Port Aransas Harbor Ferry
Take ferry across
Turn right on Alister
The Pollock Center is associated with the Community
Presbyterian Church which is on the left at 113 S. Alister

(Alternative Route)

From Central Texas:

Take I-10 East to I-37 South
Take exit 4A and merge on to TX-358 toward Padre Island
Keep left to take S. Padre Island Dr toward Padre Island
Turn left onto TX-361
Stay straight onto S. Alister
The Pollock Center is associated with the Community Presbyterian Church which is on
the right at 113 S. Alister

