



Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Aaron Colwick

Home Congregation and City: Rejoice Lutheran Church, Coppell

Why do you want to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors?

I truly believe in the power of outdoor ministries as a whole; there is something about being in the presence of the Holy Spirit while being in God's creation that cannot be replicated in any building. I would love to be a part of an organization that I feel believes that as well. With the sell of Briarwood Retreat Center's property, I'd like to stay connected to a Lutheran camp to ensure that there are still ways our campers of all ages can be connected somewhere. Cross Trails has always been supportive of Briarwood and its ministries, as well as my own, so it would be an honor to help however I can.

What experience do you have with Lutheran Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp, Off-site programs, or any other summer camps or retreat centers?

I have been to Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch as a visitor during the Tri-Camp retreats with Briarwood and Lutherhill, and partnered with them during my time as Briarwood's Program Director. I served as Briarwood's Program Director from 2014-2018, and also served at Bishop Stoney Camp & Conference Center in Santa Fe, NM, both as a counselor and Program Director from 2004-2006.

What is your occupation and/or former occupation(s)?

I'm currently working full-time as the Youth Minister and Director of A/V Ministries at Rejoice Lutheran Church in Coppell, TX, and have been there since 2018. I formerly worked at Grace Lutheran Church in Carrollton, TX, as their Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries from 2012-2022. I also work with the NT-NL Synod, assisting with their Synod Assemblies and other conventions, preparing the slides and videos as needed.

What experience, skills or gifts do you have to offer the Cross Trails Ministry Board?

I've been working with Children, Youth, and Family Ministries in some capacity for over 20 years, and have worked hand-in-hand with Outdoor Ministries for most of that time. I believe my time as Program Director at two different camps, particularly Briarwood, will help provide invaluable insight into not only the program direction for Cross Trails Ministries, but also for envisioning of how the ministries can grow through the direction that God calls us to go towards.

Thank you for your consideration of me for the Board, and I pray for all who are discerning the next steps for Cross Trails Ministries!



Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Katie Krause

Home Congregation and City: Immanuel Lutheran Church Pflugerville Tx, I currently attend Peace Lutheran Church in College Station while at TAMU

Why do you want to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors?

I would love to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors as a chance to serve camp and give my time and efforts to a camp that has given so much to me. I have attended Cross Trails camps since I was 6 years old, and I am now in my third year of college and have worked at a camp for the past 2 summers. This camp means so much to me and I would love to help make decisions in the best interest of its future. I feel as though my experience with camp allowed me to understand what is involved in the everyday operations, this has made me want to stay involved to help set strategies and create future plans. Additionally, I would like to serve as I feel I can learn new skills and hear many diverse viewpoints. I am getting to the point where I can no longer serve on Summer Staff, and I am not ready to stop serving camp, this past year I held a summer staff advisory role, and it meant a lot to me that as I am getting older my involvement with camp does not have to come to an end!

What experience do you have with Lutheran Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp, Off-site programs, or any other summer camps or retreat centers?

I have grown up going to camp and I can whole heartedly say my favorite memories involve Cross Trails! I have attended Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch for over 10 years and was blessed to attend multiple sessions per summer. I have done just about every program offered as a camper including the LYLE program, Extremes, Wranglers, Day camp, and even Texas! When I became of age to work at camp, I applied as soon as possible! The past two summers I worked on Summer Staff, serving in various roles. I was hired as a cabin leader but was also blessed with the opportunity to serve as a LYLE coordinator, Lifeguard, Wrangler, and various support staff roles at Ebert Ranch. I have served as a staff member at all sites including 2-day camp locations. This past year I was one of the Summer Staff representatives for the board where I served an advisory role.

What is your occupation and/or former occupation(s)?

I am currently a full-time student at Texas A&M University in College Station. I hold two jobs: (1) Youth Mentor at Peace Lutheran Church in College Station and (2) Dental Assistant at Andrews Orthodontics in College Station. Upon graduation in 2025, I plan to go to dental school.

What experience, skills or gifts do you have to offer the Cross Trails Ministry Board?

Having served in multiple roles at the camp, I am well versed in the mission of Cross Trails Ministry and support it wholeheartedly. I feel as though my experience in going to camp as well as getting feedback from campers and parents gives me insight as to how to make decisions that will best benefit the camp. My end-of-summer evaluations for the work performed for Cross Trails have always been positive and I have been recognized for my leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. I fully understand the importance of protecting the confidentiality of campers, the benefits of effective problem solving and the focus of high standards of the health and safety in everything we do. I can also serve as a young mind to the board and bring new ideas to the table!



Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Anita Salmon

Home Congregation and City: St. Martin's, Austin

Why do you want to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors?

Camp Chrysalis has been an important part of my faith journey and my family's journey. I also enjoy helping people and organizations grow and have the administrative talent and strategic leadership experience to do so in a board setting. I'd like to put those two together to give back.

What experience do you have with Lutheran Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp, Off-site programs, or any other summer camps or retreat centers?

My earliest experiences at Chrysalis began when my family joined Christ the King, Universal City in the late 1980's. I participated in congregational retreats that generated deeply grounding memories, including hikes to the cross and worship at the river. In high school, I organized our annual congregational retreat when the Gulf War erupted and my military dad was not able to organize. In my adult life, I have joined most Advent retreats since my husband and I had kids, taking my second child when he was just 3 weeks old. The hospitality, warmth, and support has always been nourishing, and it was especially so on that trip. I have also joined St. Martin's congregational and women's retreats, and my kids have enjoyed summer and confirmation camps on many occasions.

What is your occupation and/or former occupation(s)?

I worked the first 12 years of my career as an electrical engineer. After obtaining an MBA, I worked in Research and Development management, corporate strategy, and product management.

What experience, skills or gifts do you have to offer the Cross Trails Ministry Board?

I've had the great joy of being part of deeply transformative groups, including St. Martin's Mothers of Young Children and Companions in Christ which helped me learn to listen, both to God and those around me. I have experience developing corporate and product strategy, determining how to navigate changing markets. I know how to operationalize and organize large groups of staff to deliver on goals and have been accountable for execution of tens of millions of dollars of annual product development. I have managed, coached, and mentored many individuals on career and personal growth. I've just finished a term as president of St. Martin's, Austin. This time was challenging and required helping the congregation identify and navigate significant financial challenges in a step-wise approach. Perhaps this experience could also be of use to Crosstrails.



Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Amy J Singer

Home Congregation and City: Immanuel, Pflugerville

Why do you want to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors?

Having seen the impact of the camp experience – both with my own children and those from Immanuel, Pflugerville, I see the value that these experiences can have on their faith journey. I want to ensure that others have the opportunity for those experiences.

What experience do you have with Lutheran Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp, Off-site programs, or any other summer camps or retreat centers?

Both of my boys (now ages 31 and 26) attended camp many times. I've also seen the impact of camp on the youth and adults from Immanuel. I have also served on the board previously and have contributed to the Personnel, Program, and Bylaws Committees.

What is your occupation and/or former occupation(s)?

1991-2011 Served in several roles with the Austin Fire Department. Retired as the Assistant Director, responsible for human resources, payroll, purchasing, finance, technology, and facilities.

1976-1991 Served in various roles with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department with responsibilities including recreation center programming, cultural and arts funding, volleyball leagues/tournaments, advisory board development

What experience, skills or gifts do you have to offer the Cross Trails Ministry Board?

I have a working knowledge of human resources, facility management, and policy development and implementation. My work in the Fire Department also gave me an opportunity to participate in labor relations and all the challenges that come with an organized workforce.

I have served several terms on Immanuel's Church Council and was involved in several policy development efforts, including the human resources and finance policies, as well as constitution revision/updates. In addition, I served as Council Representative to several committees – Parish Education, Stewardship, Property, and Cemetery. With my degree in Recreation Administration and work experience in the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, I have been involved with program development and special event planning.



Board of Directors Candidate

Name: Mark Tezel

Home Congregation and City: Grace, San Antonio

Why do you want to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors?

Cross Trails Ministry has been an important part of my families growth since we attended our first family retreat over 20 years ago. I have seen how Cross Trails Ministry has changed my children's lives, and the lives of all who are touched by the special places and programs of Cross Trails Ministry. Because of this I have been willing to provide my support and service to Cross Trails Ministry. Serving on the board will allow me to continue this service.

What experience do you have with Lutheran Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp, Off-site programs, or any other summer camps or retreat centers?

I have attended family retreats, planned and participated in work retreats, and volunteered at summer camp, and on other occasions. I have also served on the Strategic Planning and Master Planning committees. I previously served on the board of directors.

What is your occupation and/or former occupation(s)?

Facilities Management Training Manager for the National Park Service.

What experience, skills or gifts do you have to offer the Cross Trails Ministry Board?

In my current position I teach planning and leadership in the National Park Service. I also have experience in facilities management. I also have skills in geographic information systems, developing interpretive and developing educational programs. I have experience in youth ministry in a congregational setting.