



Dear Group Leader,

We Look Forward to Welcoming You to Camp!

This summer Cross Trails campers will discover faith is an adventure 365 days a year! As we travel through the seasons of the church year, they will discover that God loves and empowers them all year long!

What You & Your Campers Should Do NOW

You and all your campers need to go online and fill out the Health History & Release Form by May 31st. This will give our Health Care Coordinators time to review the information well before camp. Look for the “**Links and Forms**” page for quick access. Camper parents or guardians will also need to fill out the **Camper Release Authorization Form** prior to attending camp. If you, or another adult from your congregation are going to be taking the youth home, please make sure that your campers indicate that on this form.

As a licensed youth summer camp in the state of Texas, there are some requirements for adults that were put into effect a few years ago. The state requires us to do a background check on any adult in camp during a youth camp week, and to verify that they have completed a Child Abuse Prevention Course. We are using “Protect my Ministry” to complete this service for us. There is a link on our website under “Links and Forms”.

- **If you were not at camp last summer, you need to fill out the information through this link NOW**, then we will be able to authorize the background check and approve you as one of the adults we want to take the course. The course takes about an hour and all adults need to complete it by one week prior to their arrival.
- **If you were at camp last summer, and took the course through Protect my Ministry, you do not need to take the course this year. We will re-run your background check using the information you provided last year.** If you wish to update your information, please contact us. We will have a state inspector visit us, as they do every summer, to verify that we are following state rules.

What To Review Before You Come

The materials you need to prepare for the summer can be found on our webpage at crosstrails.org. All of the information needed to prepare you and your campers for camp can be found by going to the “Coming to Camp” section. Within this section you will find links to important forms and adult leader resources, as well as the “Preparing for Camp” section. This section has information on arrival and departure, what to bring and not bring, health and wellness, money matters and more. Please review each section prior to bringing campers.

Detailed arrival and departure instructions can be found on the “Preparing for Camp” page. Please review this section carefully. If you are carpooling we still highly recommend that you make sure youth are healthy prior to leaving your hometown and have easy access to the items we need upon arrival. **You need to go through the same check-in process, as your campers.** To speed the check in process, we suggest that you and your campers put money in a camp store account online. There are instructions on the “Preparing for Camp” page under “Money & Camp”.

Be sure to review the “What to Bring” list. Adults should bring all of the items on the “What to Bring List” on the “Preparing for Camp” page. Adults can also bring most of the items on the “What Not to Bring List”, but we ask you to keep them in your cabin and not use them in front of campers. If you choose to bring a computer, wireless internet access is available in parts of camp, but it is sometimes unreliable. Please do not bring pets, weapons of any kind, personal sports equipment, illegal drugs, or anything valuable.

Your home for the week will be Lela Haus. It is air-conditioned and has four bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, shower and sinks. Most weeks, each bedroom will house 2-4 people in bunk beds. Lela Haus also has a central gathering area with couches and a full kitchen as well as a large deck with rocking chairs for socializing.

Please be aware that some cell phone services do not work well at camp. You can tell people to leave a message with our office at (830) 864-4669 if they cannot reach you. Non-emergency messages will be relayed at meals. If there is an emergency after 11 pm, have people call Megan Myers, Ebert Ranch Program Director, at (281) 948-5493.

Youth are put into “herds” to plan their camp days. However, your campers will get to choose their activities individually several afternoons instead of with their herd group to allow for individual interests. This may mean that some campers do not ride horses every day, and some campers may choose not to go to the high ropes course. The schedule will be explained at adult orientation after dinner Sunday evening. Contact Megan for more information about the schedule if you have questions prior to your arrival.

If you are bringing youth to Confirmation Camp, be sure we know if you are teaching Bible study. If you are, you will have one hour to teach each day. Our staff will be available to help as much as you'd like. Please email Ebert Ranch Program Director, Megan Myers, at megan@crosstrails.org and let her know if you need any special resources or more time with your group. If you thought you were teaching and now would like our staff to take charge of teaching, it is very important that you let us know asap. It will help us to adjust staff assignments.

Congregational Time will be offered each evening, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. This is 30-45 minutes of time when you may gather the youth from your church for some social or teaching time. There is a resource available on our “Preparing for Camp” page with ideas for ways to use this time. If you do not plan to use this time, please plan to let us know on Sunday evening so that we can adjust staff time accordingly. If you are attending the What Does this Mean?! Confirmation Camp you will have an hour to meet with your youth. There will be some separate resources shared with you upon arrival.

Look at our ideas for ways to involve your home congregation. We provide you with ideas to help send your campers to camp, support them while there, and welcome them home. Have fun with some creative ways to let your campers know that your congregation supports them in their faith adventure!

Look for an Email the Week Before Camp!

Look for an email from info@crosstrails.org the week before your campers are set to arrive. This will have any last minute information and updates, as well as your week’s photo viewing code so people at home can see the daily camp pictures!

Thank you for bringing your youth to camp! If after reading the materials online, you or your camper parents have any questions or concerns, we can be contacted at info@crosstrails.org or (830) 257-6340.

Your Partner in Ministry,



Executive Director