



Dear Group Leader,

We Look Forward to Welcoming You to Camp!

Summer camp has always been a place where campers can encounter God in new ways. Campers make friends, play, grow in faith, and learn new life skills with the help of young adult role models. This summer we will explore worship “From the Ground Up!”

We have a new webpage at www.crosstrails.org! On this page you will find all of information needed to prepare you and your campers for camp. In the “Preparing for Camp” section you will find a COVID overview, as well as information on arrival and departure, what to bring and not bring, health and wellness, money matters and more. We recommend you review each section prior to your campers attending camp.

Remember to 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!

Here are some additional things you should know as a leader...

You and all your campers need to go online and fill out the Health History & Release Form by May 28th. This will give our Health Care Coordinators time to review the information well before camp.

As a licensed youth summer camp in the state of Texas, there are some new requirements for adults that are separate from anything COVID related. The state now requires us to do a background check on any adult in camp during a youth camp week, and 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”. **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 we want all adults to complete it one week prior to their arrival. We will have a state inspector visit us, as we do every summer, to verify that we are following state rules, including this one.

Since we are still working with a COVID context, there is additional pre-camp paperwork. As recommended by health authorities, we are asking that all campers and adult participants monitor for COVID symptoms the two weeks prior to their camp week. You and all of your campers must print and fill out the attached **Health Update & Monitoring Form**. All participants, including you, will be required to give this to us when they arrive at camp. **No one will be allowed into camp without it.** We know that this is a lot to ask, but we hope to keep our campers and staff as healthy as possible, and this will help. Camper parents will receive an email reminding them to do this, but it is great if you can remind them also.

We highly recommend that you screen your campers prior to leaving your hometown. Make sure they have the required paperwork and are in good health. We will not be able to let people out of the cars without the required paperwork, so this is crucial.

Arriving and departing from camp will be different. Detailed arrival and departure instructions can be found under “Arrival & Departure” on the “Preparing for Camp” page. Please review this section carefully. It is important that you understand the process, and make sure that your campers have easy access to the items we need upon arrival. We are also sorry to say that we will not be able to invite parents to the closing worship this year, so if parents are picking up campers, please make sure they review this section.

You need to arrive at the same time, and go through the same check-in process, as your campers. We know that some of you have arrived later than your campers, and skipped the initial check in. This summer, that will not be possible. If you know you will have a problem with this, please contact us.

To speed the check in process, campers can put money in their camper's camp store account online. There are instructions on the "Preparing for Camp" page under "Money & Camp" that tell you how participants, including you, can put money in to a camp store account before even leaving for camp. Please encourage your camper parents to do this before you leave for camp.

You will need to stay on site the entire week. We know that for many of you, part of the fun is going in to town or seeing friends in the area. This summer, you will be required to stay at camp. You may want to bring some extra items for "fun times in the adult leader cabin". We will have some fun with this this summer, but it will be crucial for you to be prepared to have fun with it too. Some of our administrative staff, who live off-site and will wear masks in the presence of campers at all times, will be able to pick up items in town if you have specific requests.

This policy does mean that switching out adult leaders, going to visit campers at our other site, or having pastors or youth leaders drop by to visit will not be allowed this summer. We know that this is not ideal, but please understand that we need to keep our camp as much "in a bubble" as possible. Hopefully this will just be for this summer. If you have to leave camp early, for any reason, we will have to ask you to take all of your belongings with you and you will not be able to return.

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 1-4 people in bunk beds or singles. Lela Haus has a central gathering area with a 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 at (281) 948-5493.

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. Most beds in the Lela Haus are extra-long twin size if you are choosing to bring bedding rather than a sleeping bag. Unfortunately, this year we will not be able to provide quilts, so please plan accordingly. 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. This is especially true of cell phones. 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, illegal drugs, or anything valuable.

Camp will be small group based as always. After their health screening, campers will meet their bunkhouse leader and the other members of their group. This group will combine with one or two other camper groups to make a "herd". Campers will plan their camp days together in their "herd", making sure over the course of the week that everyone gets to do what they want to do. We have found this to be a wonderful learning tool as campers have to think of other campers needs and wants on a daily basis, and come to try things they wouldn't have considered trying if just deciding for themselves.

All campers, adult leaders and staff will have daily health checks. Everyone in camp will have daily temperature and wellness checks. As always, physician approved protocols will be followed if anyone is not feeling well. In addition to our health care coordinators and RN's, we have an agreement with a local pediatrician's office for 24 hour "teledoc" services. Look under our "Health & Wellness" page for details.

One exciting change from last summer is that we have received COVID rapid testing kits, and training to administer them, from the Texas Department of Emergency Management. This means that we will not have to send campers home immediately if they exhibit any of the multitude of COVID symptoms! If the camper's parent has given us permission to test them, we will do so on site. We will have the results in 15 minutes and there is no charge.

Masks will be required in certain instances. Everyone will be required to bring washable masks, that covers the mouth and nose completely. They will be asked to wear them until they have their initial health screening, if they are not feeling well, during travel in camp vehicles, and if an activity or severe weather requires groups to be indoors or mix campers that would not normally be in contact with each other.

Campers will not have to wear masks most of the time. Because our camper groups function similar to a “household” or “cohort” in the health guidelines, once campers have completed the initial arrival screening, they will not usually have to wear masks. Because social distancing is not always practical at camp, parents will be able to indicate their preference for when their child needs to wear a mask on the Health Update & Monitoring Form. We do ask that all parents consider the outdoor nature of camp and the high Texas heat when making this decision.

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 and a half hours 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. 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 appropriately.

Congregational Time may change. Congregational Time at camp is 30-45 minutes in the evening when you may join the youth from your church for some social or teaching time. Most groups should plan to meet outdoors. There is a resource available on our “Preparing for Camp” page that has ideas for ways to use this time to make the connection between camp and home.

There are resources for ways to involve your congregation online. We provide you with ideas to help send your campers to camp, support them while there, and welcome them home. On our webpage you will find a pdf with ways to involve your congregation and sending service resources. Read these for some creative ways to let your campers know that your congregation supports them in their faith adventure.

If your church is having “in person” worship, it is best that you not plan a camper-led worship for at least two weeks after you return. We love when campers are involved in church leadership as much as possible, but this year, the state of Texas says we are required to “provide notice to all parents and guardians of the enhanced risks of campers being in direct contact with anyone 65 or older for 14 days after the end of the camp session”.

Thank you for bringing your youth to camp!

We know that you did not come to this decision without careful consideration. We know that you have probably been trying to answer questions for parents who are sending their child too. 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
Cross Trails Ministry



Cross Trails Ministry Health Update & Monitoring Form

This form must be completely filled out, signed and brought with each youth or adult participant to camp. It will be collected before the participant can exit their car and begin the check-in process. Youth and adult participants who do not have this form in their possession when they arrive at camp will not be allowed to attend camp.

Participant's Full Name: _____

Health Update

Medication Update

Participant has had no change in medication.

Participant has begun taking the following medications since the Health History Form was submitted online. Remember medications must be sent in their original container.

Medication: _____

Dosage: _____ Time(s) of Day: _____

COVID Vaccination Update

Participant has had no change in vaccination status.

Participant has had one dose of a two dose vaccination regime. List Date: _____

Participant has completed a COVID vaccination. List Date of Final Dose: _____

Diagnosed Condition Update

Participant has had no change in medical condition.

Participant has been diagnosed with the following health conditions since the Health History Form was submitted online.

Dietary or Activity Restriction Update

Participant has had no change in dietary or activity restrictions.

Participants has added the following activity or dietary restrictions since the Health History Form was submitted online. Contact the camp office if there are significant activity or dietary restrictions.

Emergency Contact Update

If the participant becomes ill, we may require that they be picked up within an 8 hours of a diagnosis. We will always contact parents first, but it is crucial that you list at least one emergency contact who you know will be able to pick up the participant during the camp week if you are unable to do so.

Name of Emergency Contact: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Alternate Phone Number: _____

May we text this contact if we are not able to get through via a call? Circle one: Yes No

COVID-19 Testing

If a participant exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at camp, a COVID-19 rapid test can be administered by Cross Trails Ministry Staff. This rapid test takes about 15 minutes to complete. If the participant has a positive test result or declines to be tested, they will be asked to depart and be isolated until they can be picked up. If the participant has a negative test result and health care staff determine they are safe to be in the camp community, participants may remain at camp. Parents of campers will be notified with the results of any test that is administered. Please check one of the options below.

The participant may be COVID-19 tested while at camp.

The participant may not be COVID-19 tested while at camp.

COVID-19 Considerations

There are risks associated with attending camp. We ask everyone to consider the camper's health and that of those they live with, and interact with daily, when deciding to attend camp.

COVID-19 Symptoms

The following are currently listed as symptoms of COVID-19: fever greater than 100 degrees, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills or repeated shaking with chills, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache. Visit cdc.gov for the most up to date list of symptoms possible.

Pre-Camp Monitoring

On the recommendation of health authorities, to minimize illness at camp we require that each participant's health is monitored daily for 14 days prior to their arrival day. This includes daily health and temperature checks. Record the participant's temperature in the space provided.

If the participant's temperature is over 100 degrees at any point in the two weeks, the participant has COVID symptoms, or the participant is directly exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID, contact a health care provider. After the health care provider, Speak directly to a Cross Trails Ministry staff member before you leave for camp.

Start filling out this chart TWO WEEKS before your camp start date.

Date	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /
Temperature							
Symptoms (Describe)	Yes No						
Date	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /
Temperature							
Symptoms (Describe)	Yes No						

Masks

Social distancing will not always be possible or practical at camp. **Masks will be required at certain times.** Participants will be asked to wear them until they have their initial health screening, if they are not feeling well, while in the food service line, and if an activity or severe weather requires groups to mix that would not normally be in contact with each other, especially indoors.

For minor participants:

As the participant's parent or legal guardian, I understand that social distancing will not always be possible at camp and that there are cases in which people have COVID-19 and show no symptoms. Please check one of the options below.

- The participant does not need to wear a mask while at camp except when directed to by the staff.
- The participant must wear a mask at all times while at camp except when sleeping, bathing, eating, during water activities or when directed by staff to remove it for safety reasons.

For adult participants:

I understand that social distancing will not always be possible at camp and that there are cases in which people have COVID-19 and show no symptoms. I agree to follow the distancing guidelines given to me at camp. I further agree to wear a mask whenever directed by staff to do so. I understand that beyond those staff-directed situations, wearing a mask is it at my discretion.

Signature of Participant if over age 18 or
Parent/Legal Guardian of Participant

Print Name

Date