



DEAR GROUP LEADER,

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO CAMP!

Summer camp lets campers encounter God in new ways. They make friends, play, grow in faith, and learn new life skills with the help of young adult role models. This summer we will explore faith practices that help connect us to God and get us ready to go into the world to follow God's call...and we will!

The materials you need to prepare for the summer can be found on our webpage at www.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.

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 27th. 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.

As a licensed youth summer camp in the state of Texas, there are some requirements for adults that were put into effect last year. 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.

Many of the guidelines for COVID prevention are things we have always incorporated into camp. Most activities are outside and in small groups, and all campers, adult leaders and staff will have daily wellness checks. As always, physician approved protocols will be followed if anyone is not feeling well. Look under our "Health & Wellness" page for details. Campers will not have to wear masks, unless state guidelines change, they are suspected to be ill, or their parent or guardian requests it.

The situation with COVID has changed enough that we are not requiring additional paperwork to attend camp this summer as we have the last two years. We are still asking that all campers and adult participants monitor for COVID symptoms prior to their camp week and let us know if they have a known close exposure. We will still do a health screening upon arrival at camp and have daily wellness checks.

We highly recommend that you screen your campers prior to leaving your hometown, especially if you are carpooling. Make sure they are in good health before piling into a car or van.

Arriving and departing from camp will be different. Detailed arrival and departure instructions can be found on the “Preparing for Camp” page. Please review this section carefully. Make sure that your campers have easy access to the items we need upon arrival. We are excited that we will again 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. If they do not plan to attend worship, there is a different departure time.

You need to go through the same check-in process, as your campers. If you are not arriving at the same time as your campers, let us know and plan to visit the infirmary prior to moving into your cabin. To speed the check in process, we suggest that you and your campers can put money in a camp store account online. There are instructions on the “Preparing for Camp” page under “Money & Camp”.

You will not need to stay on site the entire week, but we do recommend that you limit your times in and out of camp. We have a gate at Ebert Ranch Camp, so you will need a gate code to re-enter. If you have to go outside of Gillespie or Kerr County, we will have you check back in with our Health Care Coordinator upon your arrival back to camp. If you need to switch out adult leaders, remember that this new person needs to go through a health screening upon arrival. Because of the background screening requirement, we need to discourage day only visits. If one is planned, please contact our office so that we can set up screening.

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 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. 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, illegal drugs, or anything valuable.

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.

Congregational Time will be offered each evening. This is 30-45 minutes of time when you may gather 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 with ideas for ways to use this time.

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 can find some creative ways to let your campers know that your congregation supports them in their faith adventure.

Thank you for bringing your youth to camp! We know that you did not come to this decision without careful consideration. 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