



Cross
Trails
Ministry

Camp Chrysalis & Ebert Ranch Camp
Summer Camps * Retreats * Off-Site Adventures

TRAIL POST

February 2024



“She came home bursting with new joy and love of Jesus. She’s always been so faithful but this is even bigger and better.”

Beyond Sunday

FAITH IN THE FAMILY

Sometimes it is hard to start new habits in families. If you didn’t grow up talking or practicing faith beyond Sunday morning, or even on Sunday morning, how do you start and get comfortable with faith in your home?

In addition to our summer Family Camp and Grandparent Camp, Cross Trails Family and Friends Labor Day Retreat and Family Advent Retreats have become very popular ways for families to grow together in faith in a low-pressure, fun way! This Spring we are bringing back the Family Spring Retreat with the theme of “Beyond Sunday”. It will be April 19-21 at Camp Chrysalis.

There will be play, worship, learning and camp fun while you practice new ways to grow in faith together. Register now!

You can register by visiting crosstrails.org/retreats and then clicking on “Cross Trails Retreats & Day Events”. This will direct you to our spring retreat options including the Family & Friends Spring Retreat.



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Discover Faith 365!

2024 SUMMER THEME

Faith is not meant to be a Sunday only thing. Faith is an everyday adventure with Christ as our guide! This summer Cross Trails will go through an entire church year between Sunday and Friday for eight weeks straight! Be prepared for Christmas on Monday, Easter on Wednesday and living faith in your everyday by Friday! All while learning new skills, meeting new people and having camp-style fun!

Cross Trails is Hiring for Summer 2024!

Working at camp makes a meaningful difference, and there is leadership experience from Day 1!

College students, as well as current high school juniors and seniors can now apply to work at camp!

Commit to training plus 4-8 weeks of camp and you can be part of our amazing summer camp staff!

We will train you in a variety of skills, and you get to be a part of a staff community committed to having fun and growing in faith as you work to make a difference with our campers!

Room, board, a weekly salary and the experience of a lifetime are included!

Visit our website at crosstrails.campbrainstaff.com to find out more!

What Does This Mean?!

Last summer we introduced a full week of “What Does this Mean?! Confirmation Camp” at Ebert Ranch and it was one of the biggest weeks we had! This summer we are breaking it into a two-summer series for current confirmation students.

In 2024, “What Does this Mean?!” Confirmation Campers will explore the Sacraments and the Ten Commandments in creative, staff-led Bible Study, worship and camp activities, while also enjoying all the fun camp activities of the ranch.

To help connect the campers to their home church, an adult mentor, pastor or deacon is required to attend so that connections help the youth see their church, and their call in the world, in new ways as they grow into adulthood.



What is Next for High Schoolers?

Did you know that youth who attend camp as a part of their church’s faith formation are more likely to stay involved in the church? And the more weeks they attend, the more likely they are to continue in the church as adults!

Lutheran Youth Leadership Experience (LYLE) is a great way for youth to stay involved in the broader church as they travel through their high school years. It encourages them to be leaders in the church and their community and it looks great on college applications, too!

Youth who have completed grades 8-11 can be a part of this program.

LYLE I helps youth discover their individual leadership gifts.

LYLE II helps youth to develop leadership skills among their peers.

LYLE III encourages youth to interact as mentors with younger youth, and to follow their call in the home church and community.



What is a “Campership?!”

GIVEN WITH A LEGACY OF
FAITH IN MIND!

We know that many things have gotten more expensive for families. We also know that camp is important! So, we don't want anyone to miss out because of the cost!

A “Campership” is a camp scholarship. These are available for all overnight summer camp programs and Cross Trails retreats. To get one, all you need to do is fill out a simple form that asks what program you want help with, how much of the fee you can afford to pay, how much your church can offer, if anything, and how much you want to request. Up to half of the camp fee can be approved quickly! If you want more than half, just ask for a sponsored campership and we will cover more.

This quote from a parent whose camper received a Campership shows the impact one can have.

“Thank you so much for blessing our camper with a Campership. She came back with more confidence in herself and closer to God. Her favorite part was the connections she made with other kiddos of

all ages!! I asked her 'Weren't you HOT'. She responded, 'it was the last thing I was thinking about, mom. I was having too much fun!' Thank you guys for creating CORE memories for my kiddo. You are such a blessing to our family.”

Thanks to donors that came to our Gift of Faith Gala last year, we can provide financial aid camperships to those who request one and make sure that camp is affordable for all! And all of our campers benefit from our donors.

Over 30% of our budget, \$410,985, was donated last year. Because of the generosity of those who came and donated to the Gift of Faith Gala last year, we not only were able to grant all of the camperships requested, but our base camp fee went up by only \$4 per camp day this year!



Join us for the Gift of Faith Gala

The gala helps raise funds for Camperships and to help keep camp costs low! Join us in raising funds to keep camp affordable for all and make sure no one misses out because of the cost!

There will be a gathering at The Courtyard by Marriott River Village in New Braunfels on Saturday, March 2nd beginning at 5pm.

There will be great food, music by The Grooves, entertainment, auctions, and fellowship.

You are invited to come and enjoy a wonderful time while you help to keep camp affordable for everyone!

Our goal this year is to raise \$65,000 and we need your help to get there!

Visit giftoffaith24.givesmart.com or scan the QR code to the right to purchase your ticket to attend!

Ways to Participate in the Gala

Purchase a Ticket: We would love for you to join us in person in New Braunfels. Purchase a ticket to attend this year's event! Ticket sales end February 19th.

Become a Sponsor: Event sponsorships help us to cover the overhead expenses of the event. They are a wonderful way for you, your business, or your congregation, to contribute greatly to the gala's success.

Become a Champion: Champions help us fundraise to help meet our goal of sending campers and their families to camp and to help keep camp affordable for all.

Become a Donor: We are collecting items for this year's event and you can help with the gala's success by donating items to the auctions or to the wine pull. We are looking for items or experiences of \$50 or more for our auctions.

Register to Participate: Everyone is welcome to participate in our online event! You can bid on items, purchase an item from the wishing wall, buy raffle tickets, and donate from home by registering for free.



What Can One Church Do?

Camp is a place of gathering, learning and sending. Churches are too! When churches are focused outward, it is amazing what they can do! St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ander is one of those outward focused churches that has been a true blessing to Cross Trails. For generations, St. Peter's in Ander has sent youth to Camp Chrysalis or Ebert Ranch Camp, and held an all-church volunteer work retreat at one of the sites.

Last year, their members not only built 100 benches for Ebert Ranch, they also built a new craft building at their volunteer retreat. More than that, they held an Oktoberfest for their community with live music,

food and an auction that raised over \$16,000! They not only covered the cost of their materials for the building, they also presented Cross Trails with a donation of \$14,733.06! All of this from a church that worships about 90 people each Sunday. Their fingerprints are all over camp. Look what God can do!



Gift an Item from the Wish List

Cross Trails Ministry keeps an ongoing wish list of items that we would like to have donated. Each item given to Cross Trails saves funds so that they can be used for other portions of the budget. Gifts of animals or vehicles require staff evaluation prior to acceptance. If you would like to donate something that is not on the list, but you think camp can use, please contact our office. Gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law based on a value assigned by the giver. Your help in these practical ways is greatly appreciated!

Wish List:

- Minivan
- Western tack and saddles
- Skid Steer Loader
- Commercial, household, or stacking washing machine
- Commercial, household or stacking dryer
- Back pack leaf blower
- PTO Driven Mulcher/Chipper

We also have an Amazon Wish List! You can purchase items directly from that list! Scan the QR code below and choose what pre-selected item(s) you'd like to give. Add them to your cart and proceed to checkout as usual. The item(s) will be mailed directly to us!

Amazon does not tell us who donated the items but we'd love to personally thank you! When you purchase something from our Wish List, please check the box "this is a gift" and write us a note or email info@crossrails.org to tell us you bought something.

We are beyond thankful for your continued support!



Announcements

APPLY TO BE A PROGRAM SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

If you are available for at least a week during the summer, you can apply to be a Program Support Volunteer. These volunteers live in the adult cabin and help out with program areas like ropes, waterfront, photography, or even help in the kitchen. Volunteers must fill out an application, collect references, complete an interview, go through a background check, and participate in some simple training. Visit crosstrails.org/employment for more information and to apply!

APPLY TO BE A CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY BOARD MEMBER

Cross Trails Ministry will be accepting applications to become a member of our Board of Directors from now until March 1. The nominating committee will review applicants and make a recommendation to the board based on current needs in mid-April.



ATTENTION MEMBERS OF NORTH TEXAS NORTHERN LOUISIANA SYNOD CONGREGATIONS!

Thanks to a grant from the Briarwood Legacy Foundation, you can apply to have up to half of your summer camp fee covered! Contact Rev. Adam Stockton at adam@rejoicefrisco.com for more information.