



# FALLS CREEK YOUTH CAMP

## Camper Safety Guide

The desire and goal of Falls Creek Youth Camp is Gospel impact. Any established guidelines enhance efforts to see the lost saved, believers grow, and the church strengthened while keeping all involved as safe as possible. Falls Creek Youth Camp seeks to provide an atmosphere of joy, enthusiasm, and safety. Leaders are entrusted to shepherd their group which includes protecting their students, adults, and churches over which they have responsibility. The following guidelines for camper safety provide parameters for protection and offer the due diligence that accompanies leadership.

### CAMPER SAFETY

#### ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY

Falls Creek Youth Camp is committed to a positive, uplifting, Christian environment. Falls Creek Youth Camp does not tolerate and expressly prohibits sexual harassment and sexual abuse. This policy applies to everyone at Falls Creek Youth Camp, including employees, board members, volunteers, sponsors, campers, contractors, and vendors of Falls Creek Youth Camp. Suspected violations of this policy are to be reported immediately to the Falls Creek Program or Conference Center Director. Upon review by the Director, suspected violators of this policy will be removed from the grounds of Falls Creek Conference Centers. Employees of Oklahoma Baptists who are suspected of violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment and criminal prosecution may ensue. Suspected abuse or neglect of a minor, whether on or off Falls Creek Conference Centers property or whether perpetrated by Falls Creek Youth Camp personnel or others, will be reported to state authorities, as required by law. All Falls Creek Youth Camp staff have completed and cleared a background check, and have been screened and vetted in accordance with Oklahoma Baptists child safety and predator recognition training.

#### BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ATTENDING CHURCHES:

Falls Creek Youth Camp requires that each church perform background checks on all participants (including students) 18 years of age or older attending with their group. Falls Creek Youth Camp honors background checks for 18 months from the date of the check.

## Background Check service providers must perform a national criminal background check that includes:

- A check of the National Registry of Sex Offenders
- A county and/or state criminal court search
- Social Security trace/verification

Falls Creek Youth Camp offers a few recommendations of **PREFERRED SERVICE PROVIDERS** for these checks. These organizations are provided as a means of convenience and easy reference. If you use one of these preferred providers, you will receive background checks that are compliant with Falls Creek Youth Camp requirements. If you choose to use another company, we cannot guarantee that the check is complete or the report is thorough enough to pass compliance checks at on-site registration. These providers all charge a nominal fee for their services; check with each service provider for pricing. Churches are not required to use the preferred service providers, but these companies are examples of the types of organizations your church needs to use to run these checks.

### PREFERRED SERVICE PROVIDERS

#### Protect My Ministry (Plus Package)

[www.protectmyministry.com](http://www.protectmyministry.com) | 800-319-5581

#### Ministry Safe

[www.ministrysafe.com](http://www.ministrysafe.com) | 833-737-7233

#### Shield Checks

[www.shieldscreening.com](http://www.shieldscreening.com) | 800-260-3738

#### Trak-1 Checks

[www.trak-1.com](http://www.trak-1.com) | 800-600-8999

Please use reputable, specialized firms who are able to provide the specific types of checks that Falls Creek Youth Camp requires!

### DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF AGENCIES, COMPANIES, OR INDIVIDUALS TO RUN YOUR CHECKS

- Local, county, or state law enforcement agencies, these organizations are obviously reputable, but their checks are seldom, if ever, NATIONAL checks.
- Obscure providers found on a Google search.
- Friends or church members in or connected to law

## FLAGGING BACKGROUND CHECKS

Each church is responsible to review the background checks that are run on their leaders and sponsors and make determinations regarding each person's suitability for service. In order to help you as a church to make these determinations, we are providing you with a list of RED FLAG and YELLOW FLAG offenses. These lists are thorough, but not exhaustive.

### Red Flag Offenses

If any of the following offenses are reported on a potential sponsor's background check, you should not use that person as a sponsor at camp.

- Providing alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or pornography to a minor
- Voyeurism (peeping Tom)
- Contributing to the delinquency of a minor
- Criminal solicitation of a minor
- Public Indecency
- Exhibitionism (flashing)
- Assault
- Sexual Assault (or any crime that is sexual in nature)
- Homicide
- False Imprisonment
- Kidnapping
- Injury to a child/elderly individual/disabled individual
- Abandoning or endangering a child
- Leaving a child in a vehicle
- Matters related to interference with child custody
- Failure to stop or report the aggravated sexual assault of a child

## Yellow Flag Offenses (YFO)

This is a list of felony and misdemeanor offenses. Having one of these offenses appear on a person's check will not automatically disqualify them from being a sponsor. However, the church who brings a person, whose check reveals a YFO, must also complete a YFO Acknowledgment Form for that person. The YFO Acknowledgment Form will serve as a document stating that the church is aware of the Yellow Flag Offenses found on the person's background check, is willing to take responsibility for the individual, and has determined the person suitable to serve as a sponsor for their church at Falls Creek Youth Camp. The YFO Acknowledgment Form is available in your Digital Camp Kit.

*YFOs will include any of the following felony or misdemeanor offenses:*

- Driving under the influence
- Possession/Distribution of a controlled substance
- Making a firearm accessible to a child
- Theft, including identity theft

## BACKGROUND CHECKS AND ON-SITE REGISTRATION

Background checks are run by service providers on behalf of the churches. The church will be responsible for the information contained in the reports and will maintain the privacy of those reports. At Monday on-site registration, churches are asked to produce the documents listed below and registration officials will verify checks have been completed on all necessary individuals.

- Completed Student Background Check Compliance Form, along with a folder containing a copy of the report forms\* for all campers who have had background checks run on them.

PLEASE NOTE: Though you are required to bring a copy of these reports, they will only be used to verify you ran the checks. If your group is randomly selected to be further vetted at on-site registration, ONLY sponsor background check reports will be reviewed.

- Completed Adult Background Check Compliance Form, along with a folder containing a copy of the report forms\* for all sponsors who have current, completed background checks.

*\*The report form is the page of the background check that has the subject's name and any offenses listed. Reports must clearly indicate that each required check is completed.*

Some churches will be randomly selected to have their checks further inspected to determine if all sponsors are in compliance with camper safety requirements.

The Adult and Student Background Check Compliance Forms are available in your Digital Camp Kit.

## ON-SITE BACKGROUND CHECKS

If a part-time participant (ages 18 and over) arrives and needs a background check, the Conference Center will complete the check on the individual (at the individual or church's expense). This check must be completed before 2:00pm on the first day of their planned overnight stay. Checks will not be submitted after 2:00pm. Anyone arriving after 2:00pm without a completed background check will not be permitted to stay on grounds overnight.

## RECRUITING SPONSORS/COOKS

Sponsors (adult volunteers) set the tone for the week. If a sponsor has a great attitude, students will have a great week at camp. If sponsors are godly role models and use their influence wisely for the Kingdom, there will be more spiritual impact during the week. Please only recruit and take adult sponsors who encourage your students toward the goals of camp.

*By attending Falls Creek Youth Camp, your church acknowledges that it is responsible for the selection and supervision of your adult sponsors and further warrants that it has exercised due diligence in the selection of these adult sponsors.*

**Each church is required to appoint a group leader. The group leader is responsible for the group and serves as the church contact person during the week. This person is typically the youth pastor, senior pastor, or lay person (only in the absence of a youth minister or pastor) designated as the youth leader at their church.**

#### **WHO IS CONSIDERED A SPONSOR?**

Sponsors must be individuals at least 18 years of age **and** one year removed from high school. **NOTE:** Register cooks as sponsors in the registration system. If anyone serves as a cook who is not at least 18 years of age and one year removed from high school, register them as a camper.

#### **CHURCHES MUST PROVIDE:**

- At least one male and one female sponsor.
- A minimum of one sponsor for every ten youth in their group. (This will be verified at on-site registration)
- If sharing a cabin with another group, adult leaders may be combined to meet the ratio.

#### **SPONSOR EXPECTATIONS**

Adult sponsors attending Falls Creek Youth Camp should adhere to the expectations listed below:

- Set the moral and spiritual example for the group.
- Model and enforce the camp code of conduct and dress code.
- Ensure the attendance of their students at BOTH worship services each day. Do not send groups of students without adult supervision from your group.
- Participate in the daily in-cabin Bible study and evening devotion times.
- When possible during the week, equip and encourage students to follow Christ in their daily lives.
- Spend time with students in their cabin to hear their salvation story and/or to share Christ with them.
- Have at least one sponsor/staff member from their church attend the daily sponsor meeting Tuesday-Friday in Massey Chapel (north side of the tabernacle).

#### **PROPERLY SELECTING SPONSORS**

All churches are required to run background checks on their sponsors (see Camper Safety), however, background checks are only a small part of a thorough sponsor selection process.

**Group leaders should consider the following questions when selecting sponsors for youth camp:**

- **Are they associated with your church?** It is often tempting to select people you know well to serve as sponsors, but who have little to no connection to your church. You need to be aware that it is better to select qualified leaders from your congregation than to outsource this type of help. People who are not associated with your church do not always act as responsibly with the church in mind, as those who are significantly invested in your congregation.
- **How long has this person been a member of your church?** Have they recently joined your congregation? It would be important for you to be able to observe their life and character for at least a minimum of six to eight months before considering using them as sponsors.
- **How well do you know them?** Are these people you have known for at least a year? They may be new members to your church, but you may have known them much longer and can vouch for their character. Do others speak highly of them and is their observable character above reproach?
- **Do they enjoy being around students?** Do they currently work with students in your ministry and have a good rapport with students and other volunteers? Do they observe good boundaries in their relationships with students? Do they seem too strict or too permissive? Have they agreed to abide by the requirements set forth by the church and camp leadership?