

CROSS TIMBERS

CHILDREN'S MISSION ADVENTURE CAMP

2018

SPONSOR ESSENTIALS

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Welcome to CrossTimbers!

Camp is an exciting time to make new friends, experience new things and grow closer to God. This sponsor guide will help you be prepared for what happens at camp and what your role as a sponsor is. This guide is a supplement to the Church Guide provided to your lead church representative.

We are praying for you and are anticipating all the amazing things God will do in your life and in the lives of your campers.

Thank you so much for your commitment to serve God by serving His children.

In Christ,

Praying for you!



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SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

As a sponsor, there are certain expectations and responsibilities you need to follow to ensure a positive camping experience for your group. When everyone works together doing their part, CrossTimbers runs smoothly and effectively.

◇ **Be with your campers at all times.** By being present with your kids, you are able to enjoy the entire experience, build deeper relationships, and walk with them as they grow deeper in their faith with Christ. Please don't let the children wander back to the cabins by themselves. Keep them in eye sight and know where they are at all times. Always count your group so no one is lost.

If a child becomes separated from your group, notify a camp staffer immediately. They will radio the camp director, and all activities will halt until the child is relocated with their group. CrossTimbers takes security very seriously, and the assistance of the sponsors is crucial to the safety of all our campers.

- ◇ Encourage the children to wear closed-toe shoes as much as possible. The mountain where CrossTimbers is located is very rocky. Limit flip-flops to walking to the pool and chapel. All activity sites require closed-toe shoes to participate.
- ◇ Help campers keep all food and paper goods in the dining hall so our grounds do not become littered. Restrain campers from taking candy and concessions drinks into the cabins.
- ◇ Cheer for your kids to take on more challenges and enjoy their accomplishments. Believe in them and affirm them often. Laugh as often as possible to keep the atmosphere light and fun. You will attract others and help them enjoy more things. Take pictures and tell stories about each other during group meeting times, like supper and cabin times. Sometimes storytelling becomes more fun than the actual event.

TOP 10 TIPS FOR GUIDING CHILDREN

1. **Get to know each one of your children.** Unless you take time to get to know some of the interests, talents, and qualities of each of your kids, they won't feel accepted and therefore won't be personally connected to you as their sponsor.
2. **Get into a routine right away.** For most children, routines provide security because they are predictable, and they help kids know what is expected of them.
3. **Keep your directions simple!** Giving children too many things to do at once is confusing and often results in getting very little done!
4. **Get on their train before trying to get them on yours.** Rather than get into a struggle with them, take a minute or two and join with your camper in whatever they are doing. Then put it away and work together.
5. **Give positive instructions.** When you tell a child, "Don't throw rocks!" his/her brain hears, "throw rocks!" It is impossible to tell someone not to do something without suggesting the very thing you don't want them to do! What is more effective is telling children what we want them to do. Instead say, "leave the rocks on the ground."
6. **Sarcasm has no place among children!** A camp sponsor was once heard shouting at campers who were late to line-up: "Come on, ladies! My old grandmother moves faster than you guys!" Sarcasm may be said with a hint of affection or humor, but this subtlety is lost on children younger than fourteen—the age at which the human brain "gets" sarcasm.
7. **Drop the rope!** Have you ever heard a child say, "You're not the boss of me!"? Use the following four-step response:
 - Step 1:** Stay calm and let go of the emotional rope!
 - Step 2:** Make the child "right" about what he/she is "right" about. "You're right. I'm not your parent!"
 - Step 3:** Pause and then simply say "And...everybody knows (because everybody does know) that at camp part of our duty is cleaning up. And you can do this. It's no big deal!"
 - Step 4:** Then stop talking and move on! One of the biggest mistakes adults make with children is we talk too much! Less is more!
8. **Try using the "triple play" with children who are having a hard time fitting in.** One of our challenges is the child who is a little socially awkward or shy or just doesn't seem to have an easy time making friends with the other kids in his/her class. Try pairing that child with one other child from his/her group and do a fun activity together, just the three of you. When children play together they get to know one another more easily.
9. **Teach your children how to share and have gratitude.** Try discussing with your children an example of something that happened that week that they are grateful for. Encouraging gratitude helps create an environment where friendship and respect grow.
10. **Your sponsors should "tag team" your children.** Working alone with your kids is a sure way to end up exhausted, cranky, and resentful at the end of camp! "Tag teaming" your children simply means letting others help you out, share the load, and share the success. Everyone will be better off.

SPONSOR TIPS

Boys and girls coming to camp have a variety of ideas about the days ahead. Some will draw from camps they have experienced in the past and bring items for pranks, or maybe the drama will begin the moment they get on the bus. At CrossTimbers we have created a schedule that keeps kids busy from morning until night. The lack of free time seems to reduce students' creativity for entertaining themselves as well as bullying and drama flare-ups. If a camper is not cooperating, consider your approach. Do you need to change your expressions, attitude, or reactions?

We encourage all sponsors to be familiar with the discipline procedure as stated on page 6 of this document.

LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST

The opportunity of sharing Christ's plan of salvation with the kids is so exciting, but many aren't sure how to do this effectively. The camp provides a brochure that will help guide you through this process. Follow these steps:

- ◇ Write the name of the child on the tear-off portion of the brochure. This will help you better remember the name of the child while you talk.
- ◇ Ask the child what decision they are considering and why.
- ◇ Turn to the portion of the brochure that best fits the child's desire. Remember, some kids are coming to pray for their family members or sharing something that frightens them at home. If a child's safety is threatened at home, this must be reported. No hesitating!
- ◇ As you work through the brochure, remain conversational by explaining words you feel the child is struggling to understand.
- ◇ Avoid questions that require yes or no answers, and ask open-ended questions where they describe what something means to them. Gently correct any misunderstanding they might have. Avoid churchy terminology.
- ◇ Be sure to describe how sin has separated us from God, just like Adam and Eve.
- ◇ Explain God's love in sending His son (Jesus) to die for our sins and forgive us of our sins.
- ◇ Then discuss Admit, Believe, and Confess.
- ◇ When you pray with the child, be sure to use the same words while explaining so the child will understand and pray, repeating after you if needed.
- ◇ Assure the child of their salvation and that nothing can take it away.
- ◇ Finish the brochure by filling in all the remaining information needed about the child for effective follow-up from the church.

Romans 6:23 gives an opportunity with simple words of how, for you as a sponsor, to talk to the children about Christ in a way they'll understand. Try having the child read it or even write it out as you explain it. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Make sure the child understands the concept of sin and recognizes their own sin.

That relationship begins now, and the only way we have that is with Christ Jesus.

The ABCs show our response to accepting Christ and turning our lives over to Christ.

A – Admit that I'm a sinner and agree with God.

B – Believe in Him and trust him with my life.

C – Confess my sins and make him the boss of my life.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of conduct for CrossTimbers is intended to assist the many churches and campers at camp to have a safe and enjoyable camp experience while growing in their faith. CrossTimbers is designed to help children and adults know and follow God. The code of conduct prioritizes issues related to a camper's faith development in Jesus. CrossTimbers children's sessions are planned for children who have completed third through sixth grade.

Between 10:15 pm and 6:30 am, all campers should be inside their cabin; this includes sponsors and children.

No product sales are allowed at CrossTimbers unless they have secured a contract through the CrossTimbers office.

Campers are required to attend both the morning Bible study and the evening chapel experience each day.

Sponsors from each church are responsible for enforcing the code of conduct, modest camp dress for their campers and adults, and handling discipline issues. At all chapel services, church groups must sit together. Campers will not be permitted to leave the grounds unless accompanied by a sponsor.

Believing that modesty extends beyond the dress code, campers and sponsors should refrain from public displays of affection.

It is strongly suggested that churches limit or prohibit their campers' use and possession of cell phones and two-way radios. Those items can quickly become a distraction to the goals of camp.

Use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco of any type is not permitted on the grounds during any session of camp. The possession of weapons of any sort is prohibited at camp. CrossTimbers reserves the right to perform a random drug and weapon search at any time and confiscate items that distract from the camp goals or that violate the code of conduct of the camp.

Pets/animals (other than service dogs), fireworks, rock throwing, water fighting, laser pointers, and shaving cream fights are prohibited on the campgrounds. Masks or any other disguise over the face cannot be worn. For the safety of all guests, skates, rollerblades, and skateboards are not permitted. All cycles (uni, bi, or tri) are prohibited on the grounds. Violation of this policy could result in confiscation of equipment. No wading or swimming is allowed in the creeks unless there is a CrossTimbers lifeguard present.

Unnecessary and careless traffic is prohibited on the campgrounds. Only campground-operated vehicles are permitted. Motorcycles may only drive to and from the gate to their cabin or meeting place. Recreation vehicles for living or sleeping purposes are permitted only in designated areas and must register in advance with the CrossTimbers office. No passengers are allowed in pickup beds or in the back of vehicles with hatch doors raised – all passengers must be seated in the vehicle according to its designated capacity.

CrossTimbers is a Christian environment that promotes personal encouragement and spiritual development of every camper. CrossTimbers does not condone or encourage any activity on the grounds that humiliates any camper, including initiation, hazing, and pranks.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

Most discipline issues are already solved with the attitude and reactions of sponsors promoting a great time at camp, coupled with fun activities of a busy day. However, if you continue to have challenges with a child:

- ◇ Pull that child aside and talk to them privately about his/her actions. Explain why this is a bad choice and unacceptable. State your confidence in the child to make this change and praise the child when he/she improves in order to encourage good choices.
- ◇ If the bad choices continue, the sponsor might consider a later start time of swimming and allow the child to rest longer on his/her bunk.
- ◇ If the child does not comply, contact Charlie Gatton, CrossTimbers Program Director. The three of you will have a meeting and call a parent to bring awareness of the situation. This will be the final warning.
- ◇ If the child continues to make bad choices, Charlie will call the parent again, and the sponsors will take the child home.

DRESS CODE

The intent of CrossTimbers dress code is to provide an equitable dress code for all campers that will encourage modesty above legalism. Parents and church leaders are urged to see that only clothing that meets the policies and regulations of the camp is brought to CrossTimbers. Please do not allow clothing you sense would be questionable for a Christian camp setting.

Since CrossTimbers is a Christian camp with a distinctly Christian atmosphere, the New Testament principle of modesty should always be the standard for dress at CrossTimbers. It is the responsibility of the sponsors from each church to model the standard of modesty and enforce the camp dress code.

While on CrossTimbers grounds, campers may not wear apparel that exposes the midriff, is extremely tight fitting, or has writing on the back of pants or shorts. Apparel may not display or promote tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, or inappropriate language or pictures. Tank tops are not allowed at CrossTimbers. Sleeveless shirts are acceptable, but must go from the neck to the shoulder seam and not be split down the side. All shorts and dresses should be modest length. Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times outside cabins, except while swimming.

Modest swimming suits are appropriate while swimming. A dark t-shirt must be worn over two-piece swimming suits. Shorts are required for the waterfront.

Because of the terrain and activities we will be engaging in at camp, we ask that campers wear closed-toe shoes unless they are going to the pool or chapel.

AVOIDING SEXUAL ABUSE AT CAMP

Sponsors are required to care for the needs of the children but should always protect themselves by following these simple practices.

- ◇ No sleeping with children. Avoid allowing children to sleep together as well.
- ◇ No nudity with children (i.e. sleeping, skinny dipping, streaking, wrestling, etc.)
- ◇ Two adults must be in the cabin when a child is present.
- ◇ Avoid excessive touching and holding. Kids need hugs, high-fives, and fist bumps, but are not to be continuously coddled.
- ◇ Do not allow children to sit on your lap.
- ◇ Be sensitive to vague or partial disclosures. For example, "My uncles makes me feel weird." Respond with, "I believe you," and listen. Report all abuse disclosures immediately to DHS Care Hotline (1-800-522-3511).
- ◇ Report any concerns about campers, sponsors, and/or staff to one of the Camp Safety Committee members: Charlie Gatton or Clay Young.

ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY

CrossTimbers is committed to a positive, uplifting, Christian environment. CrossTimbers does not tolerate and expressly prohibits sexual harassment and sexual abuse. This policy applies to everyone at CrossTimbers, including employees, board members, volunteers, sponsors, campers, contractors, and vendors of CrossTimbers.

Suspected violations of this policy are to be reported immediately to the CrossTimbers director or campground manager. Upon completion of an investigation, violators of this policy will be removed from the grounds of CrossTimbers. Employees of CrossTimbers, violating this policy, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment and criminal prosecution.

Suspected abuse or neglect of a minor, whether on or off CrossTimbers property or whether perpetrated by CrossTimbers personnel or others, will be reported to state authorities, as required by law.

GATE SYSTEM

During the week, the main gate will remain locked at all times. Any guests who will be arriving late or during the week will need to follow the directions that will be posted on the gate. If at any time during the week you need to exit campgrounds, you will need to notify the CrossTimbers office a few hours in advance. If an adult guest is staying, they must be accompanied by a staffer at all times or provide/complete a successful background check. For all guests that come to CrossTimbers, there will be a three dollar gate fee. Upon entering into the campground, the guest will check in at the CrossTimbers office.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Tornado Safety

In the case of an emergency, a vehicle will be driven to the cabins, and the horn will be sounded continuously in case of a tornado. This will never be a drill. At the sound of one continuous horn, this alerts cabin occupants to immediately seek shelter in the center of the cabin, away from windows, and covered with mattresses. Wait until the all-clear signal is sounded. The all-clear signal will be when the horn repeatedly goes on, then off.

Camp Evacuation Process

All participants of CrossTimbers need to be conscious of any type of open flame while on the campgrounds. In the event of a fire, the need to evacuate CrossTimbers or parts of CrossTimbers may become necessary. CrossTimbers staffers will assist campers in locating the appropriate evacuation routes and guide them to designated areas. The primary evacuation routes will be through the main gates. Depending on the circumstances, this is subject to change, and camp staff will provide guidance for campers during the process.

***Reporting Emergencies:** If you have an emergency to report or need help at any time, contact Charlie Gatton (405-802-0655) or Clay Young (918-689-6501).*

CAMP STAFF'S ROLE IN THE PROGRAM

Your week of camp is organized so you can connect, love, and minister to the children with your church. The staff focuses energy on running the activities, serving the meals, teaching the mission stops, directing tribal chaos, and standing ready to serve you and the children. Camp is a great place to be with your kids without time constraints and interruptions. Please take this opportunity to be with your kids while the staff works to meet your needs, serve as a role model for children, and encourage you as a leader. Sponsors are welcomed to join in all activities, as well as cheer their children to greater things.

FLAGPOLE

At 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. every day, the entire camp comes together to meet at the flagpole. It's very important to be on time, since we will be respectfully presenting the American flag and taking down the flag. Important announcements are made, and we learn the theme and Bible verses of the day. There will be a countdown for each flagpole time. If a cabin is late for flagpole, they will be last to go to that meal. Please ensure your group makes it to flagpole on time.

TRIBES

Tribes are created with our campers as they arrive on day one, dividing children into small groups. Each tribe is grade and gender specific. Children will join their tribes at Tribal Time after chapel. Tribes will always meet in the same place on the campground.

TRIBAL TIME

After evening chapel, campers will be orderly dismissed to meet once more with their tribes and be challenged with a big question in their small groups. For example: "What was God showing you today in the activities or in the message we heard from the pastor?" We often find children making a commitment of salvation during this tribal time, because the kids feel comfortable in a smaller setting. We encourage all the children to share their decisions with their sponsors and children's minister right away.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

There are three main activities sites: the waterfront, the challenge course (ropes course), and target sports. Each activity will divide into 2 or 3 groups and then rotate through each part of that day's activity.

***Note: You will need to be prepared to get completely soaked if you are going to the waterfront. Swimsuits are recommended, however girls must wear shorts.*

MISSIONS

The CrossTimbers missions experience is designed to help children understand the role of a missionary in a hands-on experience that impacts the community locally and reaches out to the global task of telling the nations about Christ. At each mission stop, children can explore hands-on opportunities of service while learning how they can pray for the nations and how missions are expressed in that area.

MISSIONS OFFERING

Campers and sponsors will have the opportunity to give to one of the mission works featured during camp. This offering is taken on day four during canteen time. The total money given from the cash and wristband offering is announced at the closing flagpole time of camp.

POOL TIME

During pool time, there will be lifeguards on duty at all times. At CrossTimbers we have girls' swim time (female lifeguards) and boys' swim time (male lifeguards). Please be sure to check your schedule for your designated time. Sponsors are welcome to swim, and at least one sponsor from each group that is swimming must be present in case of emergency. Here are a few things to remember about pool time:

- ◇ Before coming to the pool, be sure to shower. Hair does not need to be washed, but state health regulations require all persons to shower in the cabins, washing their entire body prior to swimming in the pool. *Please do so or we will have to send you back.
- ◇ Life jackets and vests must be worn while at the waterfront, but a life jacket can also be provided at the pool for campers upon request.
- ◇ Be sure all your children have sun screen applied at camp, especially when playing at our water venues.

CANTEEN/CAMP STORE

The Canteen is our concessions and will be open every afternoon and evening at the scheduled times. Each camper is allowed to purchase any items, but we strongly recommend one drink and one snack. It is very important that sponsors watch their children and enjoy this time together. Watch to make sure all the children are served and they get what they ordered. This can be the first time for some kids to order a snack and pay for it with their concessions wristband. What to remember:

- ◇ All food should remain in the canteen area.
- ◇ Use designated trashcans and encourage campers to pick up trash on the ground by complimenting them and thanking them for serving others.
- ◇ No one is allowed to have food, snacks, or drinks in the chapel or pool areas. Please make this clear to your campers, as bees at the pool and in the chapel are a big distraction.
- ◇ Campers may use the \$10.00 on their wristband however they choose. They should avoid spending it all at once (stock piling snacks in the cabin) since no wristbands can be purchased after registration is closed. Other campers and sponsors can purchase items for friends with their wristband.
- ◇ Items can be purchased from the camp store with a concession wristband or on the Falls Creek Conference Center's website (<http://store.fallscreek.org/>).

CHAPEL AND DECISION TIME

- ◇ During the chapel time, sponsors should sit among the kids and help them participate in the worship and fun. When the pastor directs us to Scripture, please assist kids with their Bibles and praise those who are using it so they will continue to develop greater Bible skills.
- ◇ When the pastor begins the invitation time of service, he will ask sponsors to stand in the aisle or across the front of the stage. Please follow his instructions and move quickly. Using our sponsors to guide children will allow them to have an adult in their church who knows about them and will be available to them after camp. This gives the children a way to be anchored back into their home church. You will be one of their greatest influences in that conversation after chapel, whether it's the plan of salvation or just the opportunity to talk through a difficult situation at home and pray together.
- ◇ God's plan incorporates the church as the means of discipleship for these children, not the staffers. Chapel invitation time opens the door to many significant and life-changing discussions.

IN-CABIN QUIET TIME

In-cabin quiet time is a time campers are encouraged to revisit Bible study items on a personal level. This time can be used to rest and recover. During this time all campers should be in their bunks and quiet. Camp is busy and campers need time to recover.

CHURCH DEVOTIONS

At the end of each day, you are more than welcome to lead a devotion time or just meet with your group before going to bed. This is optional and available, but there are no written devotions for use, and we ask that you be sure to reset and clear any area used.

RAINY DAY PLAN

If there happens to be rain during activities (and we hope that there is not), your group will report to the Chapel. There the leaders will have activities for you to do inside. Note, however, if there should be a day where rain is involved and an activity is missed, there will not be an opportunity to make up the activity. The program will continue on to the next day.

MEALS

Mealtime procedures include:

- ◇ Seconds on each meal will not be served until each person is served.
- ◇ Food is not allowed outside of the dining hall.
- ◇ If your group will not be attending the day four supper meal, notify the CrossTimbers office before 2:00 p.m. on day four.

Dietary Needs: If one of your children has special dietary needs, please notify us before arriving at camp. After arriving at camp, stop by our kitchen and speak to our cook about the special food conditions. Our kitchen staff can provide a special plate for you to receive at each mealtime. In extreme cases, it would be most safe for the parents to send the appropriate food to be stored in the kitchen refrigerator, and the sponsor can reheat the food in the kitchen microwaves. Our kitchen staff is not trained to prepare food that supports food allergies and cannot be responsible for making accurate decisions that would not endanger a child's health.

A sample menu can be found in the Forms & Printables section of the Church Guide.

LOST AND FOUND

There will be a lost and found area inside the dining hall. Any items found at any missions or activity stops will be brought to the dining hall lost and found.

If you have a camper who has lost something and they do not realize it until camp is over, such as a Bible, we want to get those items to you, so please contact the CrossTimbers program office.

CAMP CHECKOUT

Upon leaving for home, each cabin will be checked out by a CrossTimbers representative. A checklist will be posted in each cabin that will give instructions as to what needs to be cleaned. Upon cleaning the cabin, there will need to be one sponsor present upon checkout for every church in the cabin.

Each church will be given a checkout time at registration. If you know that your departure time will differ from that of your checkout time, you can make arrangements then.

INSURANCE

To apply for accident and illness insurance benefits, a claim report must be completed and submitted to the insurance provider. The claim form may be obtained at the First-Aid Station at CrossTimbers.

2018 DAILY SCHEDULE

DAY 1

EVENING SCHEDULE

- 11:00 GATES OPEN/CHECK IN
- 11:30 LUNCH
- 12:30 MOVE INTO CABINS
- 2:00 BOYS/GIRLS ORIENTATION IN CHAPEL
- 2:30 BOYS MEET TRIBES/MAKE FLAG; GIRLS CANTEEN
- 3:15 GIRLS MEET TRIBES/MAKE FLAG; BOYS CANTEEN
- 4:00 MISSIONS WITH TRIBES
- 4:30 SPONSORS MEETING-CONFERENCE CENTER
- 5:30 GIRLS SUPPER
- 5:45 BOYS SUPPER

- 6:30 PRE-WORSHIP
- 7:00 CHAPEL
- 8:00 TRIBAL TIME
- 8:30 CANTEEN/STORE
- 9:15 CHURCH/CABIN DEVOTIONS
- 10:30 LIGHTS OUT

DAY 2-4

GROUP

1

- 8:00 FLAGPOLE/BREAKFAST
- 9:00 MORNING CHAPEL
- 9:30 ACTIVITIES
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 1:00 QUIET TIME
- 1:30 GIRLS-SWIM/BOYS-MISSIONS
- 3:00 CANTEEN
- 3:30 BOYS-SWIM/GIRLS-MISSIONS
- 5:30 SUPPER

GROUP

2

- 8:00 FLAGPOLE/BREAKFAST
- 9:00 MORNING CHAPEL
- 9:30 BOYS-SWIM/GIRLS-MISSIONS
- 11:00 GIRLS-SWIM/BOYS-MISSIONS
- 12:30 LUNCH
- 1:30 QUIET TIME
- 2:00 ACTIVITIES/CANTEEN
- 5:45 SUPPER

DAY 4 5:00-6:00 PACK & HEAD HOME