



CrossTimbers
CHILDREN'S MISSION ADVENTURE CAMP

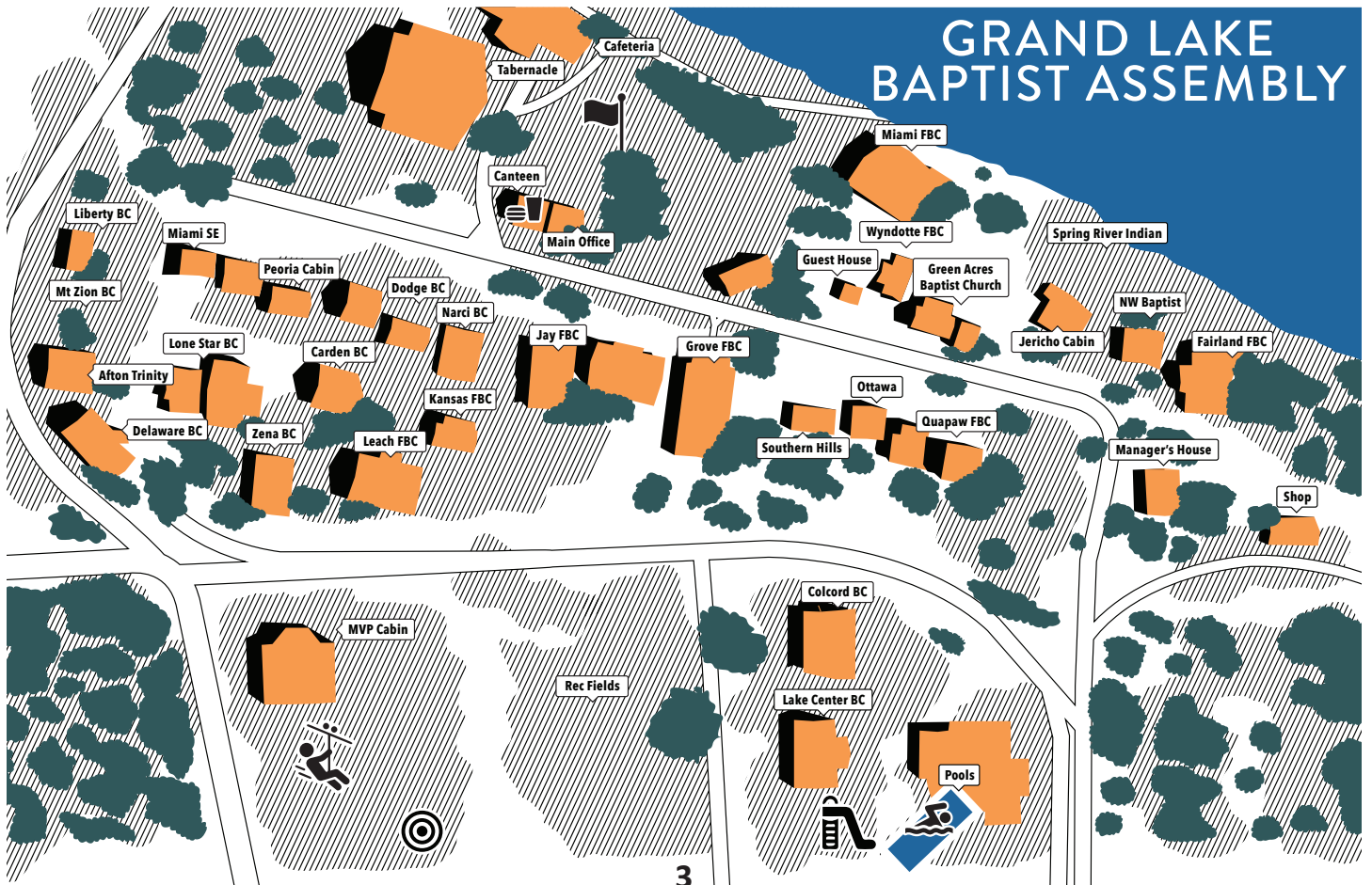
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GRAND LAKE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

As a sponsor, there are expectations and responsibilities you need to follow to ensure a positive camping experience for your group. When everyone works together, 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 eyesight and know where they are at all times. Always count your group so no one is lost. Sponsors must maintain a 5:1 camper/sponsor ratio of the same gender while at camp.
- 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.
- Closed-toe shoes are required to participate in ropes and watersports. Please ensure that you and your kids are wearing proper shoes.
- Help campers keep all food and paper goods in the dining hall to keep our grounds clean. Restrain campers from taking food and drink into the cabins.
- Take time to invest in your kids during your time at camp. Encourage them to take on new challenges and to be proud of their accomplishments. Keep the atmosphere light and fun. Take pictures and allow each of your campers to share stories about their life. This is how you are going to be able to have great gospel conversations with your campers.

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 ??** of this document.

TOP 10 TIPS FOR GUIDING CHILDREN

1. **Get to know each one of your children.** If you don't take the time to get to know each camper's interests, talents, and qualities, they will not feel accepted or personally included with you as their sponsor/leader.
2. **Get into a routine right away.** For most children, routines provide security since they are predictable. Routines help kids know what is expected of them during camp.
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.** If you are having trouble with a camper moving onto another activity, take a minute to join rather than get into a power struggle. This will help with many children who are not used to a schedule or direction.
5. **Give positive instructions.** When you tell a child, "Don't throw rocks!" his/her brain hears, "throw rocks!" It is difficult to tell someone not to do something without suggesting the very thing you don't want them to do. Instead tell them what you would like them to do. For example, say, "Leave the rocks on the ground."
6. **Sarcasm has no place among children!** Although sarcasm may be said with a hint of affection or humor, it is subtlety lost on children younger than fourteen—the age at which the human brain "gets" sarcasm. Please be aware of your words and the effect they might have on these younger campers.
7. **Drop the rope!** Have you ever heard a child say, "You're not the boss of me!?" Frustrating right? Instead of getting upset, 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 challenge during camp is the camper who is a little socially awkward or shy or just doesn't seem to have an easy time making friends with the other campers. Try pairing that camper with another camper 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 in a fun way.
9. **Teach your children how to share and be thankful.** Try discussing with your children an example of something that happened that week that they are grateful for. Encouraging gratitude helps creates an environment where friendship and respect can 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.

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 the "ABCs", Admit, Believe, and Choose.
- 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.

The Camp Definition of Sin: "Sin is anything we THINK, SAY, DO, or DON'T DO, that displeases God." 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. Repent or Turn away from our sin.
- B** — Believe in Him and trust Him with my life. (That He really lived, He really died, and He really rose from the grave.)
- C** — Choose to make him the boss of my life.



We will provide a "flip book" tool for you to use while sharing the Gospel called "**What Everyone Should Know! 4 Steps to knowing God forever!**" This book will guide you in what to say and how to say it. When to stop and when to move forward.

1. God Loves You Very Much!

John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

2. We are all sinners.

Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Sin: Anything we think, say, do, or don't do, that displeases God.

3. Jesus Christ Died for your sin

Romans 5:8, "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

4. You must receive Jesus as your Savior.

John 3:3, "Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of conduct for CrossTimbers is intended to assist 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 3rd through 6th grade. Please remember the following policies:

- Between 10:30 pm and 6:30 am, all campers should be inside their cabin (this includes sponsors and children).
- 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. Church groups must sit together at all chapel services. Campers will not be permitted to leave the grounds unless accompanied by a sponsor. Sponsors must maintain a 5:1 camper/sponsor ratio of the same gender while at camp.
- Believing that modesty extends beyond the dress code, campers and sponsors should refrain from public displays of affection (PDA).
- 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 trained and certified service animals), 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. This does not apply to surgical face masks or shields for medical purposes. 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. No fishing is allowed.
 - o **Campers with service animals may attend camp and participate in activities. Parents or guardians of said campers should contact CrossTimbers to make prior arrangements for the service animal's presence on the campgrounds. However, no overnight lodging accommodations are currently available to campers with service animals. Campers with service animals may attend camp during the day and leave the grounds at night. The camper will be allowed to return with their service animal the next day.
- 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.
- No product sales are allowed at CrossTimbers unless they have secured a contract through the CrossTimbers office.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

Criticize in Private, Praise in Public.

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 the 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, the program director 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, please remember the following:

- 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 and shirts are required for the waterfront.
- Campers are encouraged to always wear closed-toe shoes due to the terrain and activities. Closed-toed and closed heeled shoes are required to participate on the ropes course and watersports.

CROSSTIMBERS CHILDREN'S MISSIONS ADVENTURE CAMP

DRESS CODE

All apparel judgements will be left to the discretion of the CrossTimbers Staff (CTS). If CTS determines a camper or campers should change their clothing to fall in line with camp requirements, then said camper or campers are required to do so.



ACCEPTABLE



UNACCEPTABLE



ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE SHIRTS

Shorts must extend to or just beyond the campers' finger tips.



Dresses/Skirts must reach the top of the knee.



Shoes must be worn at all times outside of your cabin.



T-shirts and cover-ups must be worn to and from swimming venues.



male

female

Should wear swimsuits of modest length (fingertip) and not tight fitting

Modest one-piece

SWIMWEAR



male

female

No short shorts/ or tight-fitting shorts

No two-pieces

Campers may not be barefoot on the way to and from venues.

Tights may be worn under a garment that meets the dress code. Tights/sliders do not extend the length of garments worn over them (short/skirts/dresses). **Tights are not pants.** No tight fitting or revealing clothing. This includes leggings or similar attire, which cannot be worn as pants.



No tank tops or shirts cut down the sides.



Undergarments must always be covered by outer garments (i.e. no boxer shorts hanging out or bra straps showing).



No Midriiffs/racer backs. No sport bras as tops (includes the 5k).



No spaghetti strap tank tops/dresses.

WHAT NOT TO WEAR

Apparel may not display tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, or inappropriate language or pictures.

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 uncle 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 following people: the Program Director, the Camp Manager, or the Associate Program Director.

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 and complete a successful background check. For all guests who 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.

Circumstances may require this 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:

- Jeremy "Bear" Tonihka (405) 255-1624 (Davis)
- Scott Hill (479) 616-3276 in (Grand Lake)
- or Charlie Gatton (405) 802-0655 (Program Director)



DURING CAMP

CAMP STAFF'S ROLE IN THE PROGRAM

Your camp session is organized so you can connect, love, and minister to the children from your church. The staff focuses energy on running the activities, serving the meals, teaching the mission stops, leading tribal devotions/time, 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 time permits, as well as cheer their children to greater things.

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. Campers will join their tribes at Tribal Time after chapel.

Tribes will always meet in the same place on the campground.

TRIBAL TIMES

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 watersports, the challenge course (ropes course), and target sports. Each activity will divide into several groups and then rotate through each part of that day's activity. **Closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes are required for the ropes course and watersports.**

****Note:** You will need to be prepared to get completely soaked if you are going to the watersports. Swimsuits are recommended, however, everyone must wear shorts and shirts over swimsuits.

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. Offerings will be accepted during the mission stop and at the last canteen.

POOL TIME

During pool time, there will be lifeguards on duty at all times. At CrossTimbers we have girls' swim time and boys' swim time. 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 an 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 water shoes 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). Wristbands can be purchased after registration is closed in the office only by sponsors.
- Other campers and sponsors can purchase items for friends with their wristband.
- Items can be purchased from the camp store with a concession wristband.

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.

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.

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.

MEALS

Mealtime procedures include:

- Seconds will not be served.
- Food is not allowed outside of the dining hall.
- If your group will not be attending the day four lunch meal, notify the CrossTimbers office before Chapel on day three.



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.

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

Before 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.



CAMP RULES



- 1 — RESPECT GOD
- 2 — RESPECT GOD'S CAMPGROUND
- 3 — RESPECT AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER



Definition of Sin:

“Anything I think, say, do, or don't do that displeases God.”



COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM