

Multi-Stake Activity Approval Form

North America Central Area

Request must be submitted 3 months prior to the activity

Approval / Decline response within 2 weeks of submission

Area Executive Secretary Reviewed

Purpose of activity

Briefly describe the event and activity including safety precautions (any speaker assignments must follow handbook guidelines)

Date and Time of Activity

Location

Group (check one)

Youth

YSA

SA

Other (Explain)

Longest travel distance

Longest travel time

Transportation Type

Charter Bus

Personal Vehicle (adult drivers)

Other

Number of stakes

Number of participants from all stakes

Number of chaperones

Number of participants per chaperone

Estimated Cost:

Source of Funds (select all that apply)

Budget Allowance

Annual fund-raiser

Other

Coordinating Council and stakes involved

Chaperones are current with the Children and Youth training

All Stake Presidents support the activity

Before signing please make sure you have reviewed General Handbook section 20.

Host Stake President Signature

Date

Area Seventy Signature

Date

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1200

April 30, 2023

To: General Authorities; General Officers; Area Seventies; Stake, Mission, and District Presidencies; Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies; Members of Stake and Ward Councils

Safety in Church Activities

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Church activities unite members as “fellowcitizens” as described in Ephesians 2:19. In addition to providing education, entertainment, and opportunities for service, activities should be designed to help members build faith in Jesus Christ. They should also provide opportunities for personal growth, strengthen individuals and families, and help members participate in the work of salvation and exaltation.

Ward and stake leaders, along with supporting councils and committees, are responsible to oversee the planning of Church-sponsored activities. This planning includes the temporal and spiritual safety of participants. To assist, leaders should use good judgment and approve activities that are well planned and follow the safety guidelines included with this letter and at safety.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

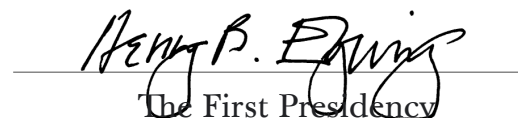
Stake, ward, and youth councils should discuss guidelines and practices that ensure the safety of all participants and protect the Church and its volunteers.

Please ensure leaders review and follow these guidelines as they plan and carry out activities in your local units

Sincerely yours,



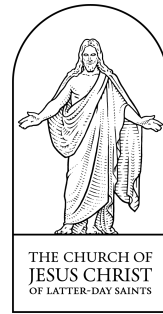




The First Presidency

Reaffirming Safety Guidelines in Activities

April 30, 2023



Activities play an important role in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Meaningful, fun, and safe activities begin with careful planning. The following are general guidelines for planning all Church activities, especially those that include children, youth, and young adults. A summary document, “[Key Principles for Safe Activities](#),” will assist with planning. Additional information is provided in “[Activities](#),” chapter 20 of *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* and at [safety.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.safety.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

General Guidelines for Leaders

1. Complete the [Children and Youth](#) training every three years (see *General Handbook*, [20.7.1](#) and [38.6.2](#)). This requirement applies to adults serving children and youth (including substitute teachers). For activities and classroom instruction, follow these key principles for protecting children and youth:

a. At least two adults must be present at all virtual and in-person Church-sponsored activities for children or youth (see *General Handbook*, [20.7.1](#)).

b. Leaders should avoid one-on-one contact with a child or youth unless they are clearly visible to nearby leaders. Also avoid one-on-one contact through phone, texts, social media, videoconference, and so on unless other leaders are included.

c. President Russell M. Nelson counseled “each of us to be alert to anyone who might be in danger of being abused and to act promptly to protect them” (“[What Is True?](#),” *Liahona*, Nov. 2022, 29). If leaders become aware of any kind of abuse or neglect, they should report it to appropriate civil authorities and counsel with the bishop immediately (see *General Handbook*, [38.6.2](#)).

d. If a bishop or stake president learns of any kind of abuse, he calls the Church’s 24-hour abuse help line in countries where it is available (see *General Handbook*, [38.6.2.1](#)). In other countries, bishops contact their stake presidents, who seek guidance from area legal counsel.

2. Promote the spiritual, moral, emotional, and physical safety of those who participate. All conduct and interactions should be consistent with Church standards and exemplify Christlike behavior.

3. Teach parents and participants that an activity is a privilege, not a right. The privilege can be revoked if participants behave inappropriately or pose a risk to themselves or others. Leaders counsel about how to address concerns that may arise.

4. Prayerfully plan safe activities (see General Handbook, [20.7.6.1](#)). Good safety planning not only protects participants but also protects the Church, its members, and local leaders. Activities should be appropriate for the participants' ages, abilities, and maturity. When activities require specific physical skills or experience, it may be necessary to obtain specialized training or to use professional guides. Carefully consider individual medical risk factors, including allergies. (Visit the [Planning a Safe Activity](#) website for more information and videos.)

5. Use the Event and Activity Plan form when planning an event or activity involving an overnight stay (see General Handbook, [20.5.5](#)), an activity requiring travel outside the local area (see General Handbook, [20.7.7](#)), or an activity that warrants special considerations. Activity leaders identify applicable requirements, plan carefully, and verify that appropriate safety measures are in place before presenting a plan to their bishop or stake president for approval (see General Handbook, [10.2.1.3](#), [11.2.1.3](#), and [20.3.2](#)).

6. Take appropriate steps to reduce anticipated risks. Provide parents with adequate information so they can make an informed decision about their child's participation. Use the Permission and Medical Release Form for each event or activity involving an overnight stay, travel outside the local area, or higher than ordinary risks. Prepare for emergencies that may occur. Know in advance how to contact parents, Church leaders, law enforcement, and emergency services, especially in areas with limited communication.

7. Be familiar with and follow both national and local motor vehicle laws (including off-highway and off-road vehicle laws) and travel-related guidelines (see General Handbook, [20.7.7](#)). Drivers should not use mobile phones or engage in other distracting behaviors while driving.

8. Carefully assess activities to ensure minimal risk of injury or illness to leaders and participants. Those who oversee activities should protect themselves by carrying reasonable amounts of liability insurance (see General Handbook, [20.7.3.3](#)). For more information, see "[What Should I Do?](#)" at safety.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

9. Notify the bishop and stake president if an accident, serious illness, or injury occurs on Church property or during a Church-sponsored activity. The bishop, the stake president, or a designated member with knowledge of the incident should promptly report accidents or incidents using the Global Incident Reporting system (GIR) at incidents.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. If the accident involves a fatality or overnight hospital stay, immediately notify the Risk Management Division at Church headquarters (1-801-240-4049 or 1-800-453-3860, extension 2-4049) and the Area Presidency.

10. In the United States and Canada, be familiar with the Church Activity Medical Assistance (CAMA) guidelines (see General Handbook, 20.7.3.4, or dmba.com/churchactivity). When injuries during Church activities are reported using GIR, the bishop will be notified and provided a link to help members apply for CAMA.