

2009 Background Checks Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need to get background checks on my adult leaders?

We are asking for background checks to be completed on each adult leader (including the Trip Leader) to help promote a safe environment for YouthWorks participants and for the communities that we serve. Knowing that all adult leaders are getting a background check will give peace of mind to other groups that will be participating with you and for community friends. It will also fulfill requirements from ministry partners that want background checks completed on adult leaders that will be volunteering at their organizations.

Where should I go to get a background check done?

Your church may already use a company to run background checks on employees and volunteers. If they do not, we suggest checking with your denomination to see if they recommend a company. Here are some vendors that you can explore as well:

- Praesidium
 - <http://www.praesidiuminc.com/>
- ChurchStaffing.com
 - <http://www.churchstaffing.com/Store/BackgroundCheck.aspx>
- Church Volunteer Central
 - <http://www.churchvolunteercentral.com/backgroundchecks/default.asp?N5=z8>
- ScreenNow
 - www.screennow.com

Please note: We require that a national (or multi-state) criminal background check be completed, not a state or county check. Also, we are not asking that fingerprinting be included as part of the background check.

What do I do with the results?

We are not setting parameters on who can or cannot attend the mission trip. We are entrusting you and your church leadership with the responsibility to give adult leaders approval to work with youth and children for this summer. Please do not send us the results of the background check. Keep the results for your files.

I have a background check on file for my leaders. Do I need to run a new one?

As long as the check was completed within the last three years by your organization, there is no need to run a new background check.

My volunteer works at a school and has a background check on file there. Do I need to run one?

Yes. We want the person (or people) who will approve the leaders to work with youth and children to see the results from the background check before making a decision.

What does YouthWorks need from me?

You will receive a 1-page form (in a forms packet in a later mailing) that you will need to fill out and sign (as well as senior pastor/priest) acknowledging that your adult leaders have had a background check completed on them and have been approved to work with youth and children.

