

2011 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 you, the Trip Leader) to 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 our 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 or churches in your area to see if they recommend a company. Here are some vendors that you can explore as well:

- Praesidium
 - www.praesidiuminc.com/
 - (800) 743-6354
- ChurchStaffing.com
 - www.churchstaffing.com/Store/BackgroundCheck.aspx
- Safe Church
 - www.safechurch.com/Pages/Default.aspx
 - (800)- 747-2154
- National Employment Screening
 - www.nationalemploymentscreening.com
 - (800) 459-3034
- National Sex Offender Registry (Not for Background Checks)
 - www.nsopw.gov/Core/OffenderSearchCriteria.aspx

Please note: Fingerprinting need not be included as part of the background check. We require that a national (or multi-state) criminal background check be completed, not a state or county check. Please check with the company that you are using for multi-state background checks; different companies exclude different states due to the amount of records they feel they obtain from the databases from which they get their information.

What do I do with the results?

We have not set 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. 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 people who will approve the adult leaders to work with youth and children to see the results from the background check before allowing them to attend the mission trip.

What does YouthWorks need from me?

You will receive a 1-page form (in a forms packet) 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 children, youth and adults. This form is due to YouthWorks one month prior to your trip.