

Background checks for attending churches

For the purposes of safety of all: the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio (SCBO) requires that each church perform background checks on all adult sponsors attending with their group. SCBO honors background checks for 18 months from the date of the check.

Background check service providers must perform a national criminal background check that includes:

- **A check of the National Registry of Sex Offenders**
- **A county/state criminal court search.**

Please use reputable, specialized firms who are able to provide the specific types of checks that SCBO requires!

DO NOT use the following types of agencies, companies, or individuals to run your checks:

- Local, county, or state law enforcement agencies (These organizations are obviously reputable, but their checks are seldom, if ever, NATIONAL checks)
- Obscure providers found on a google search
- Friends or church members in or connected to law enforcement that can get you a deal

Below the SCBO has offered a few recommendations as service providers for these checks. The names of these organizations are provided as a means of convenience and easy reference. These providers all charge a nominal fee for their services; check with each service provider for pricing. Churches are not required to use the recommended service providers, but they are examples of the types of organizations your church needs to use to run these checks.

PROTECT MY MINISTRY (PLUS PACKAGE) www.protectmyministry.com 800-319-5581 SHIELD CHECKS www.shieldscreening.com 800-260-3738	PRAESIDIUM CHECKS http://www.praesidiuminc.com 800-743-6354 TRAK-1 CHECKS www.Trak-1.com 800-600-8999
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FLAGGING BACKGROUND CHECKS

Each church is responsible to review the background checks that are run on their leaders and sponsors and make determinations regarding each person's fitfulness for service. In order to help you as a church to make these determinations, we are providing you with a list of **RED FLAG** and **YELLOW FLAG** offenses. These lists are thorough, but not exhaustive.

RED FLAG OFFENSES

If any of the following offenses are reported on a potential sponsor's background check, you should not use that person as a sponsor at camp.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Voyeurism (peeping Tom)· Contributing to the delinquency of a minor· Criminal solicitation of a minor· Public Indecency· Exhibitionism (flashing)· Leaving a child in a vehicle· Providing alcohol/tobacco/drugs· /pornography to a minor· Matters related to interference with child custody	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Assault· Homicide· False Imprisonment· Kidnapping· Injury to a child, elderly or disabled individual· Abandoning or endangering a child· Failure to stop or report the aggravated sexual assault of a child· Sexual Assault (or any crime that is sexual in nature)
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YELLOW FLAG OFFENSES

If any of the following offenses are reported on a potential sponsor's background check, you will need a written document from your church, signed by the senior pastor, that states the church is aware of the offense(s) listed on the background check report form, is taking full responsibility for the individual as a sponsor, and has determined the person is suitable to serve as a sponsor for the church at Seneca Lake or Super Summer.

YFOs will include any of the following felony or misdemeanor offenses within the last 10 years:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Driving under the influence· Possession of a controlled substance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Making a firearm accessible to a child· Theft, including identity theft
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Background Checks and Onsite Registration

Background checks are to be run by service providers on behalf of the churches. The church will be responsible for the information contained in the reports and will maintain the privacy of those reports.

At onsite registration, churches will be asked to produce the documents listed below and registration officials will verify checks have been run on all necessary individuals.

SCBO requires that you bring the following to onsite registration, Monday of your camp week or Sunday at Super Summer:

- Completed *Adult Background Check Form*, along with a folder containing a copy of the ***report forms** for all adults who have had background checks run on them.
- PLEASE NOTE: You are required to bring a copy of these reports.

***The report form is the page of the background check that has the subject's name and any offenses listed.**

Why are background checks required?

SCBO requires background checks in order to protect the lives of students and the reputations of churches. With the growing number of incidents at schools, camps, and other institutions, it is imperative SCBO operate for the safety of all participants.

How long does it take to receive a background check?

Typically, it only takes a few hours for reports to be available. Since there are exceptions to every rule, most service providers set their “guarantee” at 24-48 hours.

How often do I need to run a background checks?

SCBO will honor all background checks for 18 months, starting from the date the background check was run. This means, for example, if a church runs the checks on required individuals a month before camp, they will not need to run those checks again the next year on those same people. However, any NEW participants that are 18 years old or older in the following year would require background checks at that time.

Can I use a company other than the companies that are listed here?

Yes, you may. You should fill in the proper blank space on the Background Check Compliance Form with the name of company you use to run the checks. This document will be required at the time of registration on Monday at camp.

When is the best time to run a background check?

We recommend running the background checks at least a month before camp. This allows you to solidify your sponsor list, receive your reports back from the checks, time to deal with any hits that may show up on those reports, and to replace any sponsors if need be. This also ensures that given the “18-month acceptance window” on checks, persons returning in the following year will not require the checks to be run in that year.

One of my sponsors is attending an additional week with a different church. Can I verify that we have already run a check on them, or should they run another?

If a sponsor is attending with a different church, that church will need to run a check on them also. A background check on an individual is information is to be held in confidence by the institution requesting the check.

Will my background check from another organization substitute?

No, a background check on an individual is information is to be held in confidence by the institution requesting the check. If your place of employment has run a background check on you, that check belongs to them, and cannot be transferred to your church. Every church is required to run their own background checks on each person attending that is 18 years of age or older.

Note – ALL sponsors 18 years or older must have a background check run.

If you fail to provide proof of the background check for every adult in attendance, then we can run a background check onsite. *The cost will be charged to your church.* The amounts could range from \$30-50 depending on the event.

SCBO thanks you for your efforts as we work together for the safety of all people at our events this summer.

*sponsors = chaperones, family leaders as well