

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

June 4, 2024

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 God’s 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](https://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,

  
\_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_

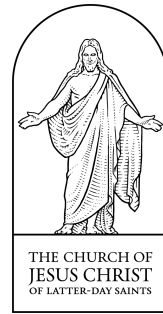
  
\_\_\_\_\_

The First Presidency

# Reaffirming Safety Guidelines in Activities

June 4, 2024

---



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 [chapter 20](#) of *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* and at [safety.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://safety.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

## General Guidelines for Leaders

1. Complete the “[Protecting Children and Youth](#)” training every three years (see *General Handbook*, [20.7.1](#), [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. A new section “Conduct at Church Activities” in the “[Permission and Medical Release Form](#)” helps parents and participants better understand 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 should counsel about how to address concerns that may arise.

4. Prayerfully plan safe activities (see *General Handbook*, [20.7.6.1](#)). Good safety planning protects not only participants but also 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](#), [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 the newly updated travel 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](http://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 Church member with knowledge of the incident should promptly report accidents or incidents using the Global Incident Reporting system (GIR) at [incidents.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://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](https://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.