

OUR SAFE SANCTUARIES POLICY

Safe Sanctuaries practices ensure a higher level of safety for children and youth in our ministries and also protect the adults who work with young people. If your church or group has not yet begun to address these issues, we strongly urge you to bring this need and these resources to the attention of your leadership.

JOSHUA requires that all adult workers with youth must have undergone a thorough criminal background check, done by the home group. No adult will be allowed to participate without a background check. JOSHUA does the same on all of its employees and JOSHUA volunteers. Background checks are valid for 3 years, and then must be repeated.

JOSHUA Safe Sanctuaries Practices:

- All adults 18 and above, whether a group leader or not, are required to have undergone a background check before going on a JOSHUA trip. However, high school seniors who turn 18 before their post-graduation summer of service are exempt from the policy of background checks.
- JOSHUA will consult a national sex offender database to ensure we are not placing volunteers in homes of known sex offenders.
- Adults and youth will have separate showering times, per Safe Sanctuary guidelines and direction of the staff.
- No youth will ride in a car alone with an adult. There must be more than one adult or more than one youth present.
- In each sleeping area, there must be at least 2 adults of the same gender as the youth. These adults will sleep in a separate corner from the youth if possible.
- JOSHUA does not condone or tolerate sexual harassment in any form.

*JOSHUA will honor any additional “safe sanctuary” practices of your church/school/organization.

Resources for criminal background checks on adult volunteers with youth:

- <http://www.churchmutual.com> has screening tools available at discounts for Church Mutual insurance customers. Free booklet and video/DVD.
- <http://www.lexisnexis.com/screening/express/> this is the screening tool that ASP primarily uses