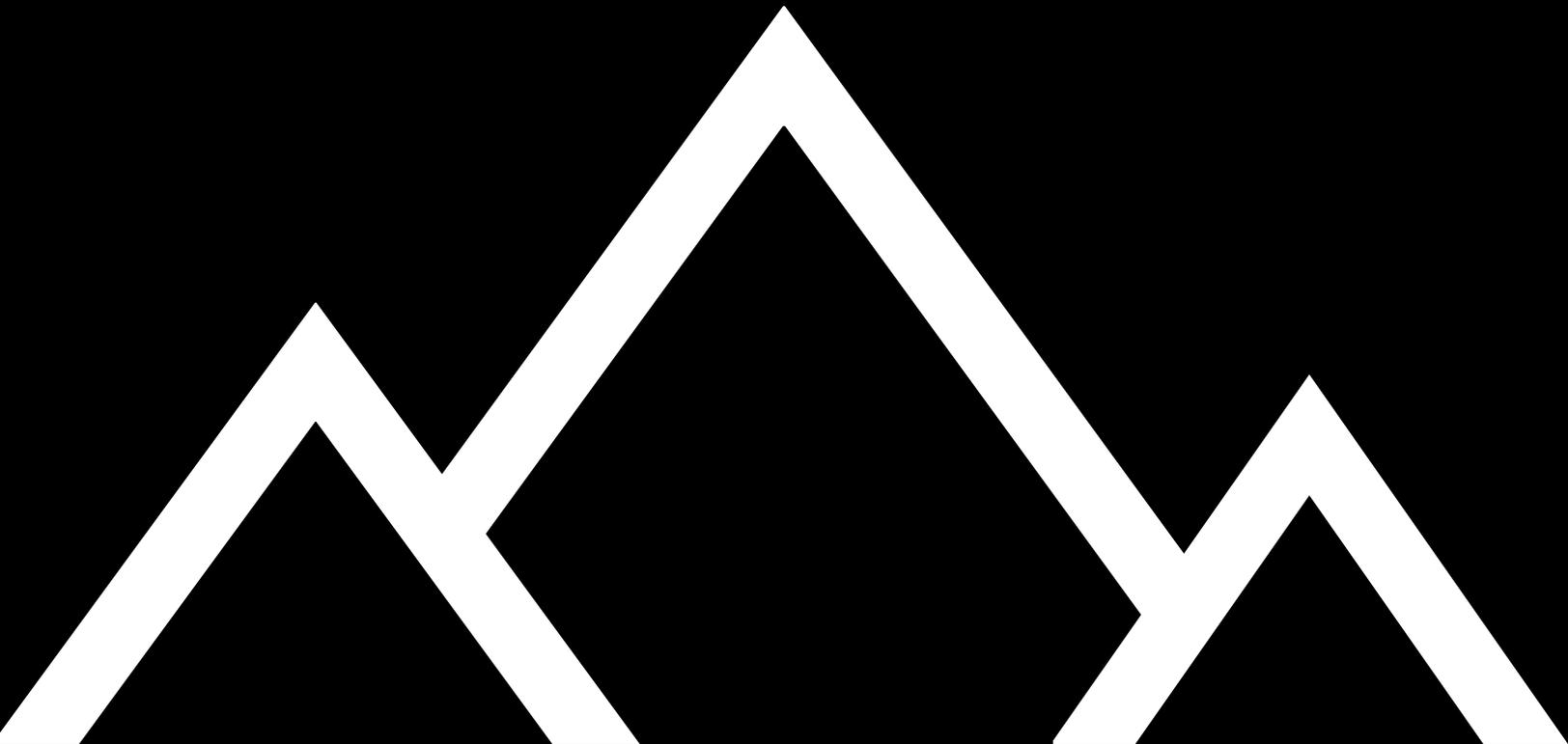




# Leader Guide



# BEFORE TCTC

## **REGISTRATION**

Walking through the process.

## **LODGING OPTIONS**

What fits your group best?

## **PARENT LETTER TEMPLATE**

Starting point for informing parents.

## **PACKING GUIDE TEMPLATE**

What to plan for.

# THE WEEKEND

## **CHECK-IN/THE WEEKEND**

What to expect.

## **SESSION MOCK SCHEDULES**

The weekend at a glance.

## **LOCAL 411**

Best dining & activities for your group.

## **TIPS & TRICKS**

Advice from seasoned youth ministers.

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- TCTC Tips and Tricks of a Seasoned Minister

# Before TCTC

## REGISTRATION

**01**

The **FIRST STEP**: create a user account to login into the TCTC registration system

**02**

The **SECOND STEP**: fill out your church profile. It is recommended to use different phone numbers for church info and contact info.

**03**

The **THIRD STEP**: Decide if your group will be: Alpha (first session) or Omega (second session). See session mock schedules later in packet for more information.

**04**

The **FOURTH STEP**: Fill out shirt sizes and ages for attendees. \*NOTE: shirts only apply for those who register super-early bird or early bird.

**05**

**PRO-TIP**: Not only are you able to save money but you also receive free convention shirts for your group if you register by super-early bird (early October) or early bird (early November) deadlines.



# GATLINBURG, TN

## HOTELS



## CABINS



# LODGING

## SCAN THE QR CODES FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

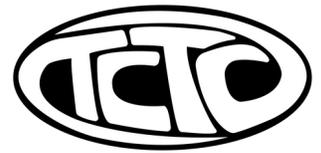
Lodging is different for each group. Some youth groups prefer hotels while others swear by cabins. We hope to walk you through a few questions to consider while making the decision of WHAT FITS YOUR GROUP BEST?

Hotels are great for groups who want as few logistics as possible. Cabins tend to take a lot more logistical preparation than hotels.

If you stay in a hotel near the convention center you won't ever have to worry about getting snowed in.

Groups who love to have a large meeting space and reduce food cost on students by cooking may want to consider cabins. They provide lots of space for group activities and have more accommodations.

# TCTC Parent Letter



Dear Parents,

We are so excited that your student has decided to attend TCTC [ ENTER YEAR ] with us. Below is the information for the weekend. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Schedule:

Meet at [ CHURCH ADDRESS ] ..... [ TIME ]

Leave ..... [ TIME ]

Arrive back to [CHURCH ADDRESS ] ..... [ TIME ]

## Meals:

We will provide [ ENTER MEALS ] . However, students will be responsible for [ ENTER MEALS] while we are there.

\* Extra spending money: students will have time, weather permitting, to walk around Gatlinburg to shop if they'd like. Leaders will be with students this entire time. We try and make sure nothing illegal or dangerous is purchased.

\* TCTC does collect offering to support missions. TCTC Missions seeks to leverage the potential of thousands of Christians uniting to make a real difference, each year. We also try to set an example of how church youth groups can make the biggest difference possible. Our goal this year is to raise \$25,000 for Crossroads Missions to help finish building houses for a neighborhood in Piedras Negras, Mexico that TCTC helped start years ago.

## Lodging Information:

[ ADDRESS, ROOM ASSIGNMENTS, OTEHR INFORMATION ]

## Leader Information:

[ NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS OF EACH LEADER ]

## Packing List:

Bible & Pen , Winter coat (forecast for weekend looks cold) , Clothes for the weekend (convention center can get warm during main sessions) , Money for 3 meals, offering, & shopping (if you'd like) , Good footwear. Lots of walking this weekend. , Toiletries , Modest swim suit

Thank You,

NAME

# TCTC Packing Guide

## **Packing List:**

- Bible & Pen
- Winter coat (forecast for weekend looks cold)
- Clothes for the weekend (convention center can get warm during main sessions)
- Money for 3 meals, offering, & shopping (if you'd like)
- Good footwear. Lots of walking this weekend.
- Toiletries
- Modest swim suit

# TCTC

## CHECK-IN PROCESS

1

Upon arrival to the convention center your lead adult will go to the Registration and check in Ballroom which will be located on the top floor of the convention center.

This is where you will "check in", purchase extra registrations, and receive your needed materials such as entrance bracelets.

2

If your group registered in time to receive T-shirts you would continue to the T-shirt booth next to registration to pick them up.

3

## THE WEEKEND

Doors to the main hall open 20 minutes prior to the start of each session. When entering, you will notice colored flags that designate where each group can sit depending on the color of your wristbands. All colors are rotated so that everyone gets an opportunity to sit in the each section.

Ministries and talent for the weekend will have booths with information and merchandise for sale. These are closed during session times but open before and after every session.

If you happen to have any more questions or concerns an information booth is available in the back of the main hall.





# LOCAL 411

## PLACES TO EAT

### GATLINBURG DINING

Gatlinburg has a lot of dining options, however most of the fast food options are gone. Subway is one of the few fast food choices left. Most restaurants we recommend budgeting around \$15 – \$25 per meal if a student plans on getting a meal, drink, & tipping. A lot of youth groups order pizza and have it delivered to their hotel in order to provide a more affordable meal for their group. One restaurant we want to warn all youth ministers about is Dick's Last Resort. This is a place where servers are meant to act crude and write inappropriate comments on white paper hats that all guests wear.

### PIGEON FORGE DINING

We fully understand that tourist destinations can be very expensive places to eat. If your group needs fast food options we recommend driving your group to Pigeon Forge where you can find any and every fast food chain restaurant.

**Mellow Mushroom**

**Bennett's Pit BBQ**

**Smith & Son Corner Kitchen**

**Subway**

**Five Guys**

**Loco Burro**

**Best Italian Cafe**



# LOCAL 411

## **THINGS TO DO**

Gatlinburg offers groups plenty of options for activities your group can enjoy together. Some groups like getting away from the busyness of Gatlinburg and drive to Pigeon Forge to enjoy some free time. Here is a list of just a few options your group may consider.

## **ARCADES**

Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge offer lots of arcade options for your group to enjoy.

## **ACTIVATE GAMES**

Activate offers high-tech games that test your team's physical and mental agility across a wide variety of real-life challenges.

## **ESCAPE ROOMS**

Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge offer a couple different escape room options to test your group in team work.

## **TANGER OUTLETS**

if your group would like to do some shopping away from Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge offers a great variety at The Tanger Outlets.

## **THE ISLAND**

If part of your group wants to shop while the other would like to play, The Island offers both shopping and entertainment.

# TCTC

## Check- In Information

Upon arrival to the convention center your lead adult will go to the Registration and check in Ballroom which will be located on the top floor of the convention center. You will enter at the main entrance closest to the Loading Dock of the Convention center and the Ballroom will be marked by flags.

# 1

# 2

Once you enter the Ballroom you will find our registration booth. This is where you will "check in", purchase extra registrations, and receive your needed materials such as entrance bracelets.

If your group registered in time to receive T-shirts you would continue to the T-shirt booth next to registration to pick them up.

# 3

### Important To Note:

- If at all possible please DO NOT bring your entire group into the Registration Ballroom. This will help us to stay as organized and streamlined as possible.
- Your Youth Minister does NOT need to be the adult to check you group in but please only send adult representatives.
- If you need to buy or sell registrations TCTC will not facilitate those transactions. You may buy registrations for full price at the Registration Booth. However, groups will often buy or sell tickets for lower rates amongst themselves. If that is something you wish to do you must arrange the meet up and percase personally. HOWEVER, you may bring the purchased wrist bands to the Registraton Booth to trade in for a band that matches the rest of your group.
- If you arrive AFTER the Omega session of day one has started our Registration Booth may be closed. If that is the case your group will be able to check in at the information booth in the downstairs hallway, just outside the Convention Center Main Room.

# TCTC

## Session Mock Schedules

\*THESE ARE NOT ACCURATE FOR THIS YEAR BUT ARE PERFECT EXAMPLES OF THE STANDARD SCHEDULE\*

### ALPHA

#### FRIDAY

---

3:00 PM *Registration Opens*

6:10 PM *Main Hall Opens*

**6:30-8:30 PM Main Session**

#### SATURDAY

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8:10 AM *Main Hall Opens*

**8:30-10:00 AM Main Session**

10:00-3:40 PM *Small Group Time*

3:40 PM *Main Hall Opens*

**4:00-6:00 PM Main Session**

#### SUNDAY

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8:10 AM *Main Hall Opens*

**8:30-10:15 AM Main Session**

### OMEGA

#### FRIDAY

---

3:00 PM *Registration Opens*

9:10 PM *Main Hall Opens*

**9:30-11:30 PM Main Session**

#### SATURDAY

---

10:40 AM *Main Hall Opens*

**11:00-12:30 PM Main Session**

12:30-8:10 PM *Small Group Time*

8:10 PM *Main Hall Opens*

**8:30-10:30 PM Main Session**

#### SUNDAY

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10:40 AM *Main Hall Opens*

**11:00-12:45 PM Main Session**

# TCTC

## Tips and Tricks from a Seasoned Minster

- It's all about Jesus! Pray for youth and leaders and ask your congregations to during your trip.
- Concentrate on relationships. This is a great time to build these!
- Often times STRUCTURED FREE TIME is the best free time, especially with Middle School students. there will be large portions of free time in the schedule. If you have a particularly young group a great hack is to arrange an activity such as going to the aquarium or put-put as a group. this will also help facilitate group interaction and bonding.
- Don't forget your medical release forms.
- Stay flexible, things will not go as planned. Relax and enjoy what God is doing.
- Watch your speed – parents are watching! But more than that, you have precious lives with you!
- Have enough sponsors to split youth up to eat at their restaurant choices.
- Bring a pole with a sign on it, or picture, that youth can spot your group at a distance.  
– OB Roberts, Attending TCTC since 1988.

- Plan your Lodging and Transportation ASAP We get ours booked 9 months in advanced that way I know what I will need to set my student price at as soon as TCTC registration opens.  
– Luke Emmert, Attending TCTC since 1993

- Stay in cabins or group housing instead of hotels
- Pray a lot
- Tie some lessons in before and after TCTC to fully engage the theme
- Encourage and do your best to boost missions offering giving.  
–John Pryor Attending since 1991

# TCTC

## Tips and Tricks from a Seasoned Minster

- Eat lots of Krispy Kremes!
- Pray like crazy
- Use after session talks (some of the best stuff can happen there)
- COFFEE
- Be present
- Listen to God the Father (he has work to do in your heart too).  
– Darrick Willoughby Attending TCTC since 2001

- Housing in cabins or a chalet is great for group building activities and session debriefs. You would see Gatlinburg in limited doses and time is spent privately together.
- Housing in a hotel is easy access to the Convention Center and Gatlinburg activities, Renting a meeting room in the hotel or reserving one through TCTC becomes much more important  
–Ron Bull Attending TCTC since...forever

- Cultivate a personal relationship with the "Groups Manager" of your choice hotel, reserve next year as you leave this year.
- Rest areas > Gas stations
- TCTC is for Middle Schoolers too. It is worth the extra planning to make the biggest thing on their social calendar a Godly event!  
–Keith Buddemeyer Attended TCTC 1998– 2019