



## FSA – Keeping You Safe

### How to Protect Your Child at Summer Camp

Every summer approximately 10 million children will pack up their clothes, bedding, and favorite pillows and head off to summer camp. Most kids will return home with wonderful memories of new friends and fun filled days. However, some may return with devastating memories that could last a lifetime – such as being bullied, assaulted, or even becoming a victim of sexual abuse.

Not all states require summer camps to have an accreditation license. In fact, according to the American Camp Association, twenty-eight states don't even require their camp workers to have criminal background checks. This can give sexual predators the opportunity to engage and have direct contact with children. To help protect your child at summer camp, always learn about the camps reputation and policies, investigate their child safety protocol, and ensure you have a plan in place to communicate with your child. You can also find more camp safety tips at the [American Camp Association](https://www.aaca-camp.org/).

### Parents, do your homework!

- Ask if the camp is accredited
- Ask how the summer camps recruits, hires, and screens its employees
- Ask the age of the camp counselors
- Ask what kind of medical staff they have on duty
- Ask how the summer camp handles discipline
- Ask if your child will be driven anywhere
- Ask for and contact references

### Five ways to prevent your child(ren) from becoming a victim of abuse:

- Teach them about body parts
- Educate them about inappropriate touching
- Screen the camp
- Recognize potential abusers
- Know the warning signs of sexual abuse
- Know what to do if you suspect abuse

For more tips, please visit the [Florida Sheriffs Association's Crime Prevention Tips](#).

