

July 22, 2023

Elders, please ensure that everyone in your meeting has received this letter.

Dear Friends,

Convention is rapidly approaching, and in the interest of making it an edifying and encouraging experience we want to share the following information, reminders and guidelines with you all.

In preparing for the conventions, we seek to create a safe setting. As a precautionary measure, anyone who has been identified as being linked to instances of CSA or SA has been asked to remain at home and enter into the convention via the conference call. In addition to that, we all have a shared moral obligation to ensure that our own conduct is safe, appropriate, and encourages a healthy environment for everyone in attendance, as well as an obligation to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Those of our prep crew who have not yet had opportunity will be able to attend a supplemental class on child abuse prevention during preps, and we would also encourage you to look into some of the resources available for recognizing and preventing child abuse as well. One option is the Stewards for Children program that the prep crew will be trained in. It is available at the following link: <https://www.d21.org/get-trained/>. Another option is the Ministry Safe program. As Doyle communicated previously, an account has been set up and paid for so that any of our friends in Oregon and South Idaho can access that training. If you send an email to m.safe.awareness@gmail.com letting them know you would like to take the Ministry Safe course, a link will be sent to you. For those of you who have already received a link and watched the videos, please remember that if you haven't taken the test, we cannot say that you have completed the training.

The following is what we often share in some form at the beginning of convention. Please remember that we are all guests on the Rumsey property throughout preps and convention. As guests, our behavior should be appropriate, safe, and respectful. Happy children enjoying being together with their friends is an appreciated hallmark of convention. With this in mind, we would encourage parents to visit with their children about safe behavior while at convention. This would include taking care so as to not be unattended in isolated or dangerous areas like the back pasture, or around the pond, or forested areas, in addition to other considerations. Also, there are times when it is necessary to use the restroom during a meeting. A good practice would be for the younger children to be accompanied by someone responsible, and for the older children to make the time out of the meeting as brief as possible. As in years past, there will be dormitories available for those who want to stay on the grounds, but we would ask that any children under the age of 14 be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. This year there will be a patrol of the buildings and property both during meetings and at night, to watch for anything that is out of place. We encourage everyone to be mindful of each other, both for our physical and spiritual safety. If you observe anything serious enough to report to authorities, the OR Dept of Human Services abuse hotline number is 855-503-7233 (SAFE).

Our first official workday is Saturday, Aug 5th. Work will begin around 8:30 a.m., with a sack lunch break at noon. As in past years, we are planning for three 6:00 p.m. Sunday gospel meetings at the Boring grounds during preps, as well as a sing on Fri August 18 at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are scheduled for August 6, August 13, and August 20. A conference call number will be available for those unable to attend their convention. If you find this option necessary, you can contact Dottie Nichols at (503) 871-5301 or Chris Hill at (971) 344-1637 for the call-in number. Also, we ask that pets be left tended to at home, and that benches be saved by those attending the whole convention, not just for the weekend.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of us. We appreciate your help in making our time together enjoyable and spiritually beneficial.

Signed, The Boring Crew

With the agreement of: Devin and Marlene Rumsey, Doyle Smith, Jay Wicks