

Sports Crusaders

2023 newsletter



WHAT'S NEW

Lets take a look into what the year of 2023 has brought to Sports Crusaders. There were eighteen Crusaders on mission with hearts ready to lead, serve, and impact the next generation. Over 1,000 students were witnessed to. We provided over 30 sports camps and recreational camps over the course of 10 weeks. From the beginning of June to the beginning of August, Sports Crusaders left an impeccable footprint on the lives of students searching for a relationship with Jesus. By God's good works, over 50 students are starting a new season with Jesus as their Lord and Savior. For that, we could not be more grateful.



Leading Gen Z

"Spending my summer with Sports Crusaders was one of the best choices I could have made. There were definitely some challenges along the way, but getting to share my love for Jesus and basketball with kids, week in and week out, was so much fun. There's really nothing better than seeing the smile on a kid's face when they come to fully understand who Jesus is and decide they want to follow Him. Right before I began my Sports Crusaders camps this summer, I went on an international mission trip, and that trip was also very impactful. But, it was through Sports Crusaders that I was able to fully recognize the mission field that exists right at home. I'm so thankful that Sports Crusaders gave me the opportunity to both learn how and put to practice presenting the Gospel and sharing my testimony. Those skills will help me to continue to share the love of Jesus throughout the rest of my life."

- Sydney Spielbauer

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Words from the Executive Director & new members

MRS. TRICIA ALBERTS

"For the past 25 years, I have personally recited this scripture as part of our mission behind Sports Crusaders. We have used sports as that "common ground" for 30 years. Several years back, I was challenged by one of our Campus Missionaries from a state Baptist Student Union at an MBCollegiate gathering. He pointed out that we were leaving out a group of students who were not gifted in teaching the traditional team sports of which I was hiring. I needed to consider students who could serve, sharing the gospel in camps for those interested in the more technical side of gifting, such as robotics, and/or gaming. I must admit I was very skeptical. My own son has no desire to participate in any of the sports we currently offer. He is however, part of a gaming community online. I had to admit, that our mission is to meet people where they are in order to share the Lord with them.



CONT'D.....

I began praying that God would show us how to do this and if it was His will to open the doors for us to add this to our ministry. More importantly, I prayed for someone who would have the knowledge and passion to use Esports as a platform for sharing Christ with others. God has provided this! We were able to have our pilot E-sports camp at Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, July 31-August 4, 2023. We wrapped up the camp with an E-sports tournament on Saturday August 5th. We collected data and have a great team of folks who will be strategizing our plans for future E-sports events. We hope that this can become events that we can do year-round, and not just in the summer. In my own research, I have a new passion to reach this group of people. E-sports camps not only helps the camper to improve their level of gaming, but also includes physical activities to improve their hand and eye coordination, but team building and critical thinking. We want to provide a safe gaming environment to help Christian gamers learn how they can make a positive difference in their gaming community, as well as get them out of the house and into an environment with other gamers, make some new friends and give them an opportunity to get Biblical instruction at the same time. Please pray for us as we establish this new leg of ministry. We have already envisioned some God sized dreams! This is still God's ministry and our job is to remain faithful to the call."

BRE CRAWFORD,

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS



We welcomed a new team member and employee, Bre Crawford, at the beginning of August. She is a recent graduate-level student with her MBA from Northwest Missouri State University. Some of you may recognize her face as she was an intern and team leader for us during the summer of 2021. Coming from a small town in Missouri, Bre is ecstatic to share her big ideas and develop new tools for us to use. Her creative and superior marketing skills have allowed us to revamp our social media platforms and open new doors to digital outlets that we did not think were possible. We are so excited to have her on our team full-time. Bre is a determined go-getter and has eccentric plans for us in the near future. Be on the lookout for what this marketing guru has in store. You will not want to miss it!

CYNTHIA WALKER,

NEW BOARD MEMBER



Our Board of Directors continues to grow and shape the organization into a vessel that is much greater and better than it was before. Cynthia Walker, daughter of our founder, Bobby Shows, came eager to be a part of our team. She willingly leads with a sense of purpose and admirable ebullience. Cynthia has a wonderful family of four, her husband Steve and two sons, Cole and Caleb. Their family has been a part of Sports Crusaders since the very day it was founded, and we could not be more thrilled to have Cynthia as a key asset to our board. Her impressive talents and dominant administration will continue to make our team better and grow our leadership for Christ.

DOUG SHOWS,

NEW BOARD MEMBER



A key figure who is just as good as his father himself, Bobby Show's son, Doug Shows also joined our Board of Directors this year. From a very young age, Doug has been very involved with sports. Whether that was participating, coaching, and refereeing, sports have always been an outlet for him to follow in his father's footsteps. Rumor has it that he is a better ref than good ole' Bobby! Doug is a collegiate sports referee and has been a NCAA Men's Tournament Official since 1998 and a Division I Referee since 1993. He and his wife have two, very talented children and one, adored grandchild. We are thrilled to have him on the board.

the crusaders

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor." Ecclesiastes 4:9



Carson Whittemire



Elizabeth Rush



Cade Murphy



Laura Kimmell



Jabez Mukandila



Sharayah Seymour



Toni Williams



Charlie McKeon



Dorie Haas



Timothy Hudson



Megan Stone



Eli Dunnaway



Ziggy Keamogetswe



Larissa Bell



Tarryn Vega



Sydney Riley



Barack Parfait



Sydney Spielbauer



18 CRUSADERS.

ONE MISSION.

ONE HEART
FOR JESUS.

International Missions



LET'S GO TO MEXICO!

Mexico?? Count us in! We sent out an international missions team to Guadalajara, Mexico in July to teach basketball clinics and for our team members to share their testimonies and the Gospel with village residents. Our team was also presented with the opportunity to attend four, different churches to preach the word of God and worship with local congregations throughout the week. But, that is not it!

The weather challenged the group, but the rain never stopped the mission. Our team members were able to gather around a tree and share testimonies while the rain passed. By day four of camp, almost 70 students were attending the clinics. Each student grew more and more confident in their skills and attentive to the Gospel when it was shared. Professions of faith were made, which allowed our group to pray over the students and help guide them through the steps of having a relationship with Christ. God definitely moved in Guadalajara and opened new doors for children to grow in their relationships with Christ from here on out.



"So this trip came up at the last minute. My mom asked me if I wanted to go like 2 months before we left! But, I just took a leap of faith and relied on God for funding a full mission trip in a short amount of time, packing, and getting off work. Luckily, God was faithful and everything was taken care of!

I knew going into this trip, it was going to be much different than the other three Sports Crusaders missions trips I had been on. Our team went to lay the ground work for future trips and get the name of Sports Crusaders into a new city of Guadalajara, Mexico, as well as establish its reputation.

That first Sunday, our team was able to go and play at the local basketball court, air up the balls, and advertise a little bit to some of the kids that were there. I am glad we went because 2/4 goals didn't have rims, so we were able to plan our camp schedule around that! Our camp days were long, but very fun and rewarding.

Throughout the week, our team was able to share the Gospel and teach about basketball to (around) 60 kids, between the two camps each day. I was able to share my testimony a couple times, and it hit home with a few of them. My story is pretty fresh and is tough to talk about, but I am glad I shared it. Many of the children were very upset about the Americans leaving. We really were able to bond and create a strong connection with the kids. Sharing the Gospel is the most important thing on a missions trip.

Overall, the trip was a super amazing. Brian and Resalba, our team leaders, were great to work with and made the week go smoothly, along with the churches we partnered with. Our leaders were very resourceful in getting transportation, supplies, and translators for our week. The team was able to help change these kids lives and give them something they will remember forever. I can't wait to go back!"

- Cole Walker



eSports

OUR LEADER, CALEB MCGENNIS



"In a thrilling fusion of athleticism and digital prowess, Sports Crusaders is excited to announce the details from our eSports Camp, where the worlds of competitive sports and gaming collide! In this unique event, participants dove into the virtual realms of Halo Infinite, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Rocket League, and Apex Legends, honing their skills, making new friends, and gearing up for an epic tournament that will showcase their newly found gaming skills. Gone are the days when sports and gaming were viewed as separate entities. The rise of eSports has created a dynamic space where strategy, teamwork, and individual skill converge, much like traditional sports. With the Sports Crusaders eSports Camp, we embraced this synergy, offering a platform for youth to channel their competitive spirit in both the virtual and physical realms while teaching, training, and engaging with our students in topics such as biblical leadership, responsibility, communication and hand eye coordination.



THE RUNDOWN ON CAMP

As the eSports Camp came to a close, the excitement reached its peak with the highly anticipated Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament at Concord Baptist Church. Campers put their skills to the test in a thrilling competition that showcases their growth and expertise throughout the camp. With the spotlight on them, participants had the chance to prove their mettle and claim victory in the ultimate gaming showdown and even had the privilege of duking it out on the main stage."



Join the eSports Revolution with Sports Crusaders! The Sports Crusaders eSports Camp is not just a camp; it is a journey into the exciting world where sports and gaming intertwine all while prioritizing the Gospel. It is an opportunity to develop strategic thinking, teamwork, and individual mastery, all while forging new friendships and unforgettable memories while sharing the word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Whether you are a seasoned gamer or a sports enthusiast looking to explore the digital arena, this camp is the perfect platform to unleash your potential. Don't miss out on this groundbreaking event! Join the Sports Crusaders and embark on a journey that transcends traditional boundaries and embraces the future of competition trying to reach our lost youth, one gamer at a time.



For more information and registration details, visit <https://sportscrusaders.org> or contact us at 573.291.0524.

Summer 2023



memories



SPORTS TEAM

Between our five sports teams, they were able to travel across several states and host 25 sports camps throughout the months of June and July. Over 600 students were witnessed to, and almost 50 students asked Jesus into their lives. Most of our teams held multiple camps a day and had to bounce around to help one another. Being fluid and flexible were key themes that the Crusaders showed day in and day out this summer. Carson Whittemire says, "This summer with Sports Crusaders has been nothing short of a blessing. God has blessed us by allowing us to share His love with all the kids. God is good!"

REC TEAM

Our recreation team attended 8 camps this summer. They were in charge of leading group activities, worship, devotions, sharing testimonies, and representing who Jesus Christ is in their daily walks with Him. From water games to gaga ball to late night laser tag, the Crusaders were very fortunate to witness to hundreds of students who may or may not have a relationship with Christ. An anonymous student said that, "The Sports Crusaders have encouraged me to want to know Jesus and live for him. Meeting them and hearing their stories is what I needed this summer. I cannot thank God enough for that."

supporting us

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

OPEN DONATION



**30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION..... MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR MAY 26, 2024!!**

**OPEN HOUSE * FOOD & FUN *
BAND * SLIDE SHOW * PROGRAM**



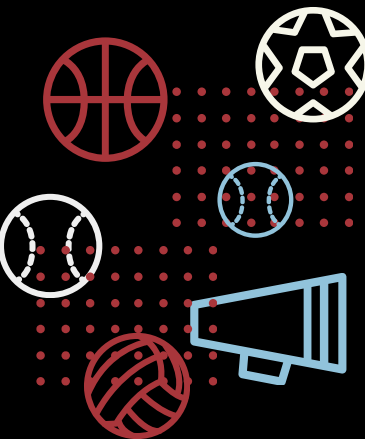
WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

- Prayer and word-of-mouth
- Adopt a Crusader
- Monetary Donations/Resources

CONTACT US NOW



+ (573) 896 - 6095
www.sportscrusaders.org



Special Presentation by Doug Shows

Founder's Son

NCAA D1 BASKETBALL REFEREE

COST PP: \$10

FAMILY: \$35

T-SHIRT \$15 | \$10

4 PM - 10 PM

**UNION HILL
BAPTIST CHURCH
HOLTS SUMMIT, MO**

EVENT AGENDA TO BE RELEASED AT A LATER DATE

ADDRESS:

**SPORTS CRUSADERS
434 S SUMMIT DR,
HOLTS SUMMIT, MO 65043**

WEBSITE:

SPORTSCRUSADERS.ORG

PHONE : (573)-896-6095

HOW CAN YOU GIVE? THERE ARE THREE WAYS!

- Register with our mobile giving at www.sportscrusaders.org
- Contact us for a monthly ACH option for direct transfer from your checking account.
- Mail a check made payable to Sports Crusaders.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US!

FROM OUR HEARTS WE SAY

THANK YOU

**TO OUR HOST CHURCHES,
VOLUNTEERS,
HOST HOMES, AND PARTNERS.
OUR SUMMERS ARE SUCCESSFUL
BECAUSE OF YOU!!**



**CHECK US OUT ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!**

**FACEBOOK:
SPORTS CRUSADERS
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SPORTS.CRUSADERS**