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Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt Hosts Ceremonial Signing for Camp Safety with Advocates and Legislators

Safe Summers Foundation, formerly known as the Campaign for Camp Safety, celebrates House Bill 1675, which requires state oversight of Oklahoma's youth camps

OKLAHOMA CITY — August 13, 2026 – Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt yesterday held a ceremonial signing of [House Bill 1675](#), a new camp safety law requiring summer camps and outdoor programs across the state to assess their site-specific hazards and prepare for severe weather emergencies. The Governor was joined by the bill's sponsors, Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) and Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore), along with advocates from the Safe Summers Foundation. Photos from the ceremony are [available here](#).

HB 1675 requires all camp facilities, youth camps, and outdoor programs in Oklahoma to conduct a site-specific hazard assessment and develop an emergency action plan before Jan. 1, 2027, with reviews every three years thereafter. The new law does not apply to single-day camp programs. Each plan must include response protocols for the severe weather hazards applicable to the site — including flooding, high winds and tornadoes, hail, lightning, extreme heat or cold, and wildfires or smoke — as well as evacuation routes and access to emergency shelter.

Under the new law, camps and programs must also maintain two independent methods of receiving severe weather alerts, including at least one method that does not rely on cellular service, along with an internal communication system and procedures for notifying guardians. Potential threats and emergency response procedures must be disclosed to all participants, and staff are required to complete annual emergency and hazard-recognition training, as well as conduct periodic drills. Regulating authorities may impose corrective action plans and civil penalties, and may close facilities for material noncompliance. The law takes effect Nov. 1, 2026, and the new safety standards will be in place for the Summer 2027 camp season.

"Every parent who sends a child to summer camp deserves to know that if a disaster strikes, the adults in charge will be ready," said Blake Bonner, co-founder of the Safe Summers Foundation. "We are deeply grateful to Governor Stitt for standing with Oklahoma's families, and to Representative Cantrell and Senator Seifried for their leadership in carrying this bill across the finish line. Because of their work this session, kids who attend camp in Oklahoma next summer will be better prepared and protected from preventable harm. This is exactly the kind of common-sense progress the daughters we lost would want to see happen, and we will continue working hard to ensure other states follow."

Oklahoma's new law is part of a growing national movement following the July 4, 2025, flash floods at Camp Mystic in Hunt, Texas, which claimed the lives of 25 campers and two counselors known as the "Heaven's 27." In their grief, a coalition of parents launched what is now the Safe Summers Foundation, which has advanced camp safety reforms in Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Missouri over the past year with more states to follow when legislatures reconvene in 2027.

About Safe Summers Foundation:

Safe Summers Foundation (originally founded as the Campaign for Camp Safety) is a 501(c)(3) launched by a coalition of parents whose daughters ("Heaven's 27") died while in the care of Camp Mystic on July 4, 2025, during flash floods. From the deepest grief has come a commitment: to ensure no other family suffers the same heartbreak and preventable loss of young lives. The Foundation works to protect children and youth from harm while preserving the American tradition and joys of summer camp. It achieves its mission through research, advocacy and grantmaking. For more information about the Safe Summers Foundation, visit safesummers.org.

About the Safe Summers Action Fund:

The Safe Summers Action Fund, 501(c)(4), is a sister organization to the Safe Summers Foundation, which drives legislative change and policy reform to make prevention, preparation, and protection a reality at summer camps across the U.S. The \$70 billion summer camp industry affects 26 million children in America annually. Learn more at safesummers.org/action-fund.

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