



TAKING LEARNING OUTDOORS



Outdoor Education Information Guide

www.collincountyadventurecamp.org

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To book your school: Contact the Outdoor Education Director who will work with your lead teacher or administrator to plan the basics of your trip. These basics will include:

- Available Dates
- Length of Program
- Selection of Classes and Activities
- Number of Participants
- Special Requests (Special/restricted diets • Limited mobility • Learning disabilities)



Reservation: Requests can be made up to 12 months in advance. Groups using the camp during the current school year have the first right of refusal the following year. We engage students in Grades 1 through 12 in outdoor education programs at our facility on weekdays according to the academic calendar. All school groups are welcome regardless of public or private status, as well as religious affiliation. In order to guarantee adequate staff availability for your group, we will contract you for a minimum number of program participants. While we cannot guarantee exclusive use of the facility for your group, we typically try to pair up schools from the same district in order to adhere to specific district policies regarding student, teacher, and parent interaction. Meal planning is done in coordination with the Food Service Director, Theresa McGinnes.

Cost, Deposits, and Billing will be discussed as we work to set dates, programs, and number of participants.

Numbers: Your contract should reflect the number of students that you stated would be attending or the number of students that attended last year if you are a returning school. These numbers are important because we assign cabins, develop schedules, and purchase food based on what the contract says. If your numbers increase or decrease, please let us know as soon as possible. Groups are responsible for 90% of the contracted number, but if notified within 90 days we can adjust.

Learning groups: We will send you a schedule of your activities. The schedule will be broken into learning group rotations. We estimate 25 students per group, so a school with 75 students would have 3 groups, 100 students would have 4 groups, etc. Ideally, we like to have 20-25 students per group. It is up to the school to determine how to split the students into learning groups. The easiest way to do this is to put one boy cabin and one girl cabin together for a learning group (roughly 24 students).

Cabins: Camper cabins are 2-sided duplex style buildings that sleep 14 per side (ideally 2 chaperones and 12 students). They are referred to as 2 separate cabins (i.e. Redbud A and Redbud B, 1 building but 2 "cabins"). About 2 weeks before your arrival a cabin list will be sent to the lead contact for each school so you will know what cabins have been assigned to you. It is up to the school to determine how to split the students into cabin groups.

Teacher cabins sleep up to 16. There are 4 individual rooms with 2 sets of bunk beds. Each of the 4 rooms has its own bathroom/shower. When there are more than 2 schools at camp, you will be given the option to share the teacher cabin with another school or book a student cabin for your teachers.

Infirmary: The nurse will have the option to stay in a private room in the infirmary or in the cabin with the teachers.

Chaperones: With overnight groups we highly recommend 1 chaperone per 6 students (2 chaperones per cabin with 12 students). We recognize that not every school is able to do this, but there does need to be an adult in each cabin. Teachers can serve as chaperones if needed. Also, we do get questions about not having enough male chaperones. We have had groups put 2 female chaperones in the boys' cabins. The camp does not have an issue with this if your district will allow it.

*Extra chaperones are allowed; however, they will be required to pay the full student rate. We permit 1 chaperone for every 6 students at the discounted chaperone rate. This is a new policy.

Nurse: Each school is responsible for providing a nurse that meets the requirements of your district's policy. Each campus will be assigned an exam room in the infirmary to store and dispense medications.

Required paperwork:

Each camp participant will need to have a **Hold Harmless form** on file. These can be downloaded from our website.

A couple of weeks before your arrival you will receive a **count sheet** requesting numbers. This form needs to be sent back at least one week before you arrive. It will have student/adult counts as well as special diets. *This is a new form.

Once you arrive at camp you will receive a **billing report** asking for final numbers (we recognize that numbers can fluctuate up to the day of camp). This is the form that we will use to bill you for the balance.

Online Resources: www.collincountyadventurecamp.org

You can download the **student field guide** from our website. It is not a mandatory resource, but it is highly recommended. Many schools use this as a resource in their science classes all year in preparation for the STAAR test.

Information Guide, Parent/Chaperone Guide, Packing List, FAQs, Directions, Camp Map, Hold Harmless forms, etc.

Emailed Resources:

Cabin assignments, schedule, and count sheet about 2 weeks ahead of your scheduled visit.

Standard Programs:

3-day/2-night Outdoor Education Program: Our most popular program, offering teachers the choice of four classes and two night activities. Utilizing your students' curiosity about the natural world, our instructors will guide your students through hands-on activities that engage students in higher-level thinking, problem solving, and personal growth.

2-day/1-night Outdoor Education Program: A quality outdoor education experience when time and funds may be limited. Students will participate in three core classes and one night activity. Since instructional time is extremely valuable, the 2-day/1-night program is fast-paced and energetic. Students will be engaged in instruction and thrive in the natural setting of our outdoor school.

1-day Programs: We offer various 1-day programs that will be fun and interactive for your students. Teachers can choose classes or recreational activities, but the programming is flexible and can be catered to your needs. Typically day groups do 3-4 activities/classes.

Most Popular Classes and Recreational Activities:

Core Classes follow the academic standards found in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) guidelines and a constant thought to connecting camp experiences to the ever evolving fields of S.T.E.M.

Curriculum Based Activities

Forest Adventure (2.5 hrs.): Hike through the forest, interact as an ecologist, learn basic plant identification, and discuss man can and has affected the environment.

Adventure Race (2.5 hrs.): 'Race' through a team-guided journey in order to discover how the earth changes over time. Discuss resources, soil/rock formation, and build shelter.



Lindberg Lake Adventure (2.5 hrs. **paired with canoeing and fishing*): Learn about how the water cycle and watersheds affect drinking water in their area, and determine the health of Lake Lindberg by searching for local macro-invertebrates.

Texas Living History (1 Day program): Travel back in time and become a settler who is looking to buy land in North Texas. Meet a Caddo, Vaquero, Soldier, and a Pioneer. **Program is popular with 4th grade students studying TX history.*

Science Day at Camp (1 Day program): Students Explore and Discover as they adventure through classes designed to connect classroom and nature. **Program currently developed, around 2nd and 3rd grade science TEKS, as well as High school science.*

Night Activities

NSI (Nature Scene Investigation): Grab your thinking caps and help discover how humans can better protect the animals of the Blackland Prairie.

Night Sky: Observe the mystery and wonder of the sky above your head. Enjoy stargazing on a clear night, learn about rotation and revolution and moon phases.

Adventure Project: Engage in a variety of games and activities that foster critical thinking related to wildlife, ecosystems, habits, and human impact.

DYA (Design Your Own Adventure): Your teachers are invited to plan and implement your own program. We will provide 2 staff members to assist you. The sky is the limit with this one.

Camp Fire: S'mores, songs, and skits around a blazing fire what more could you ask for to make your camp experience complete? ** We provide skewers and firewood, and s'mores.*

Recreational and Teambuilding Activities

Challenge Course: We offer a wide array of challenges that are designed to teach students the importance of thinking outside the box and working together. *(Challenge Course will be paired with either archery or climbing wall as recreational activities. Groups that choose to do both archery and climbing wall will do one activity during the challenge course class and one as an afternoon free time activity.)*

Archery: Students have the opportunity to hit a Bulls-eye in this camp classic.

Rock Wall: Students will have the ability to set and reach their own climbing goal on our 35ft wall. **Participants wear a harness and helmet and are held by a belay system (safety rope)*

Canoeing and Fishing: Exploring the Lake Lindberg ecosystem in a team-powered boat. Get up close and personal with the fish in our lake. All fishing is catch and release.

Outdoor Living Skills (1 – 2.5 hours): Safely build a fire, identify edible plants, orient yourself with a compass and make a shelter, because it is always best to be prepared.

If you have a class you would like to see or changes you would like made for your school, we can help tailor any program to fit your needs.

3 Day Daily Schedule:

Day 1:

Arrive at 11:00-11:30am: Buses should drop off students at their cabin area (first left after you enter camp).

Staff will meet you on the road near the cabins to help you find where to go. Adults unload luggage on the outside of the circle drive (departing school's luggage will be on the inside of the circle) *many groups find that color coding luggage with ribbons or duct tape according to cabin groups makes belongings easier to identify.

Lunch: Eat a sack lunch upon arrival. *Students and adults will need to bring a lunch. After lunch there should be enough time to get settled into the cabin before orientation begins.

Prepare for Class: Please be sure that students have everything they need for class (i.e. water bottle, field guide, pencil, appropriate clothing and shoes). Class will begin **immediately** after orientation.

Orientation: The first scheduled activity. The students will have orientation with the CCAC instructors. The chaperones will meet with one of the OE Coordinators. We recommend splitting teachers up to get all of the information. Staff will be there to direct you to the correct room or location. **Amy will meet with the lead teacher at the beginning of orientation to collect final numbers and Hold Harmless forms.**

First Class – approximately 2.5 hrs.

Free Time: After the first class, students will have about an hour and a half of "free time". Some groups may also be doing the climbing wall or archery during this time, depending on their schedule.

Dinner: The school will line up in front of the Dining Hall (in the courtyard) by cabin groups. A CCAC staff will be there to greet the groups and let them into the dining hall.

Evening activities will take place after dinner. Your schedule will tell you exactly where to meet for those activities. Students may want to bring flashlights, bug spray, or warmer clothes depending on the season.

Day 2:

Breakfast

2nd Class

Lunch

Quiet Time

3rd Class

Free Time

Dinner

Camp Fire

Day 3:

Groups need to move luggage out, of the cabins and into the inside of the circle drive, before going to breakfast (so that our cleaning crew can get the cabins ready for the next group.) *We will designate a cabin for luggage on rainy days.

Breakfast

Last Class

Lunch and Camp Evaluations

Load Busses at the dining hall around 12:30pm. The busses will then drive you down to the cabin areas to load your luggage and depart for school. We have found that this is the best way to do this since groups are coming in and out at the same time. By the time your school goes back to the cabin area, the arriving school will be going to orientation.

Free Time:

The choice is yours!

This is a great time to visit the camp store where T-shirts, snacks, refreshing drinks, and camp souvenirs can be purchased. Explore the Discovery Room. Come play in the courtyard where tetherball, four-square, and gaga pits can be found. There are also hiking trails, an orienteering course, and scavenger

