

Navigator’s Notes – Bring This To The Campout



Congratulations! By taking your child on an Adventure Guide campout you are letting them know that they are the most important person in your life. If you have been on a campout before, you know that it is a great opportunity to make memories and build a strong relationship with your child. If this is your first campout, get ready for memories that will last a lifetime!

Under the guidance of a carefully selected camp staff, you will find yourself in the beautiful piney woods of East Texas, located outside of Tyler. Whether you are visiting for a weekend or staying for a lifetime, Sky Ranch has the amenities and services to meet your every need, from first-class dining and resorts to some of the greatest challenge events in Texas.

In our effort to make this a positive experience for everyone we ask that you please leave alcohol at home and respect the policies and procedures set forth by camp and your Program Director. Thanks for helping make your campout safe and successful.

Good Decisions!!! Sky Ranch is an Alcohol Free facility, they will fine \$1,000 per occurrence please respect their rules. Practice good fire safety and enjoy the fire pits and grates at the cabins! Such reckless behavior is discouraged and prohibited and the camp reserves the right to dismiss anyone that doesn't practice common sense.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you might have. We look forward to having you and your child as our guests!

Navigators – Please get this information to your circle

Pre-Camp Notes	
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 23 rd	Registration for this campout will close Monday March 23 rd . If you are not sure that you're registered contact aginfo@ymcadallas.org . Registration includes Saturday breakfast and lunch. Cabin assignments will be provided when you check-in and everyone will need to check in. Any special needs requirements; please contact Isabella- ihess@ymcadallas.org .
Firewood: No order required	Firewood is provided to each cabin and included with the registration so there is no ordering needed.



Sky Ranch - Van TX – March 27th – 29th

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Camp Schedule

Friday

Time	What	Where
4:00 ^{PM}	Check In & Cabin Assignments 	When you arrive, you will be greeted by a staff member, they will direct you to registration and parking. You will want to enter through the East gate. You will park in the green parking lot and check-in will be in the pink lot at a tent. See picture in back of packet. Everyone must check in. You will receive cabin assignments when you check-in. A waiver must be filled out prior to going into camp. You will be directed to a parking area, from the parking area the camp staff will shuttle you to your cabins. You cannot drive to the cabins! Eating! There are no meals served Friday night, plan to stop for dinner along the way out or cook out at the camp. Drive Safe and Arrive safe! You can try Soulman’s BBQ just off the exit to Sky Ranch, you’ll see the signs...
5:00 ^{PM} -7:00 ^{PM}	Mini Golf, Human Maze, Treetop Towers. Basketball	
6:00 ^{PM}	Dinner	Dinner! There are no meals served Friday night or Saturday night.
7:30 PM Activity Center	Navigators Meeting Required Attendance	Activity Center please make sure you send either your lead volunteer or a representative from each group. We will review schedules, camp rules, and meet camp staff.

Saturday

Time	What	Where
All Day	Circle Flag	Navigators – Be sure to bring your flag to the camp and display on your cabin or nearby tree. Be sure to present your colors at each event, carry your flag with you through the day.
TBD	Breakfast 	Dining Hall –Meal times will be given out at the Leader Meeting Friday night.
TBD	Enjoy the Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zip Lines • Tree Top Towers- Vertical Playground • Hatchets • Jumping Pillow • Unstaffed activities- volleyball, kickball, maze, basketball, mini golf, activities in activity center • THERE WILL BE NO WATER ACTIVITIES THIS WEEKEND • Premium Activities: horseback riding, laser tag. Pay for them at the Corner Store Saturday morning
TBD	Lunch 	Dining Hall –Meal times will be given out at the Leader Meeting Friday night.
TBD	Enjoy More of the Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zip Lines (50 lb. minimum) • Tree Top Towers- Vertical Playground • Hatchets • Jumping Pillow • Unstaffed activities- volleyball, kickball, maze, basketball, mini golf, activities in activity center • THERE WILL BE NO WATER ACTIVITIES THIS WEEKEND • Premium Activities: horseback riding, laser tag. Pay for them at the Corner Store Saturday morning
1:00-5:00 ^{PM}	Sky Café	Sky Café is open for snacks and treats, lots of good and sugary treats... Located in the back of the Legacy Center.
8:00 ^{AM} to 6:00 ^{PM}	Corner Store	The corner store will be open all day on Saturday and open on Sunday morning.
7:00 ^{PM}	Bonfire 	Procession to Canoe Beach. A Navigator will escort your circle to the fire, details at the leader meeting.

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Sunday

Time	What	Where
10:00 ^{AM} to Noon	Pack Up and Enjoy the Camp	Drive Safely Everyone!! Check Out: Please sweep the cabins, bag up your trash and pick-up around the campground. Please leave the camp cleaner than you found it. If you moved any tables, bunks or mattresses, please return them where you found them.



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More Important Stuff

About Your Campout: This is a full service campground, meaning that you will be in cabins with heat and in some cases A/C. All cabins will have a bathrooms and showers. The bunk-beds are hard with what resembles a mattress. Bring either blankets or a sleeping bag and pillows. There are no linens, so you need to bring towels and such. Don't forget the stuffed animals and those stinky blankets that every kid has and needs to go to sleep. With that said, make sure you have it when you leave. If you are a light sleeper consider some ear plugs, you can find at any sporting store that carries hunting gear. These are cabins, not hotel rooms so set your expectations accordingly. Please keep the kids from jumping off of the bunk beds – a broken leg or twisted wrist is not the memory you are looking to achieve.

Roles: Most circle will assign roles. One person responsible for ordering the firewood, one to bring food one to cook, a cook or grill master, therapist, mediator and such – everyone should take a role. Pack whatever you like but expect the kids to raid each cooler – so bring extra. Don't expect the kids to eat much so attempt to bring snacks that might offer some nutritional value (cereal bars, fruit, lunchables and other make-believe healthy stuff – protein wards off bad behavior). Make sure you pack any medicines your kids need but also bring your usual off the shelf meds too (allergy meds, Tylenol, whatever) – there are no pharmacies nearby. Bring extra shoes and socks, a pair of long pants and closed toe shoes. And I hate to say it, bring rain gear.

Keep an eye on the kids: Recommendation, the buddy-system or better yet – the herd-system. Kids should never be alone or not where a parent is not nearby. This weekend is about time with your child, be sure to have your one-on-one time. Don't use the drive to the camp as an opportunity to catch up on voice mail, put down the phone and talk to your kid – turn off the TVs in back seat. You kids will remember this weekend more than any other weekend in their entire life.

Meltdowns: Usually reserved for Saturday afternoon when the kids are the most tired. Work through it with the kids. Just know that it will happen and it will be over in 10-minutes or less. I don't suggest silly threats (we are going to leave if you don't stop...).

Behavior: Not the kids, the dads. Make good decisions. The camps are alcohol free facilities; this is a weekend to spend with your kids – not a weekend to get loaded with your buddies. But also, encourage the kids to behave well and be respectful of the camp and each other.

Most Important: Make sure that the kids are having a great time. We expect the dads to have a ton of fun too, but you will be tired, achy and cranky. This is camping and the facilities are not Ritz or even Motel 6 like. The camps are mostly run by volunteers, so be patient and set your expectations accordingly...

Sleeping Arrangements: Most cabins have between 10 and 14 beds (5 to 7 bunk beds). The size of your group will dictate how many cabins your circle will be assigned. In some cases, your group may be sharing a cabin with another group. We do our best to avoid this but there is limited space and we have to accommodate everyone. Please do not move beds out of cabins.

If your child is one that likes to wonder in the middle night, you might consider letting them have the bottom bunk and you take the top bunk. Please, keep the kids from jumping off of the bunks. Snorers, you know who you are – work with your cabin mates to minimize their pain and discomfort inflicted by your snoring.

Chant or Song. Each Circle should create a chant, a war song or some other creative way to vocalize their Circle. Each Circle will be asked to sing, shout or scream their chant or song on the council fire.

Horseback Riding: Riding is available for an additional cost of \$25. First come, first serve. Call ahead of time to make a reservation for your entire group. Or, you can sign up at the Corner Store in the dining hall however this is first come – first served so space may be limited. Long pants and closed toe shoes are required for horseback riding.

Nation Games: Nation Games, Athletic Field. This is a great group activity. A great team building experience for the campers.

Directions and Check in Procedures: Once you have checked in, you will be given your cabin assignments. You will be directed to a parking area where you will then load all of your gear and junk into a shuttle. The camp staff will talk you to your cabin.

Other Camp information: Please remember no silly string, sidewalk chalk, pets, or digging holes. We need to keep the camp they way it was before we came.

Camp Cooking: Most of the cabin areas will have a fire pit. Typically, the fire pits don't off much of a grill to cook on. Many bring portable gas grills or charcoal grills. Just remember, sometimes you may be quite a distance from your camp area. You can also bring a grill to place over the fire pit or put some charcoal in the fire pit for cooking. There are raccoons that will break into the coolers at night, so make sure you secure things the best you can.

Camp Fires: Please be safe around the fires, burn only firewood – no bombs, cans, trash or other debris. Camp fires are great fun, enjoy them safely. No cutting/chopping down trees. Keep fires in the fire pits/rings ONLY.

Behavior: Be wise and make good decisions. Alcohol, fireworks and bad behavior are not allowed. This is a weekend for you to build lasting bond with your child. The YMCA reserves the right to kick you out for such decisions.

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Your Volunteer Team: This team has committed their time to the program. We want you to have a great time. We do not however run the camp facility, concerns regarding the camp facility need to be addressed with the camp director; of course the Navigator will assist in any way possible.

Final Reminder: You cannot park next to the cabins! Please pack accordingly.

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Sky Ranch: 24657 CR 448- Van, TX 75790 - Ph: 903-266-3300

Driving Directions, but you may go online to route your own plan.

www.skyranch.org

From Dallas/Fort Worth

- Take I-635 E, to US 80 E to get to I 20 E
- Exit #537 (FM773/FM16)
- Cross FR 773, 0.3 miles
- East (left) on FM16, 3.6 miles
- North (left) on TX 110, 1.3 miles
- East (right) on FM 1805, 4.9 miles
- South (right) on CR 448, 0.5 miles to Sky Ranch





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No Tolerance Alcohol Policy

The YMCA Adventure Guide program is an alcohol and a drug-free environment. The use of alcohol or illegal drugs on YMCA property or during a YMCA Adventure Guide event is strictly prohibited. The YMCA Adventure Guide program has a no tolerance policy. Anyone found drinking or using illegal drugs will be asked to leave the program for one year. This policy is consistent with the mission of the YMCA and is the policy dictated by the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas.

Reinstatement Policy

The YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas allows each branch the opportunity to define criteria to reinstate those suspended due to the alcohol policy. After six (6) months of suspension and suspension from one campout, the suspended person(s) can be reinstated. The Richardson Family YMCA defines its reinstatement policy as follows:

Any person, suspended due to alcohol violations, can be reinstated if the person meets the following criteria:

- Has been suspended for at least 6 months
- Has missed one campout due to suspension
- In the opinion of the Council officer and Y-Staff involved the alcohol incident was limited to consumption or possession. No other person was harmed or disturbed by behavior resulting from consumption.
- In the opinion of the Council officer and Y-Staff involved the person cooperated with the punishment and peaceably left the YMCA event.
- In the opinion of the Council officer and Y-Staff the person honored the suspension by not attending YMCA events.

The suspended individual must request to be reinstated into the program by contacting the YMCA Program Director. The YMCA Program Director will then review the details of the alcohol incident with Council members then based upon the findings, determine the appropriate reinstatement action.

YMCA Mission:

To put Christian values into practice through programs that building healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

YMCA Core Values:

- Caring
- Honesty
- Respect
- Responsibility

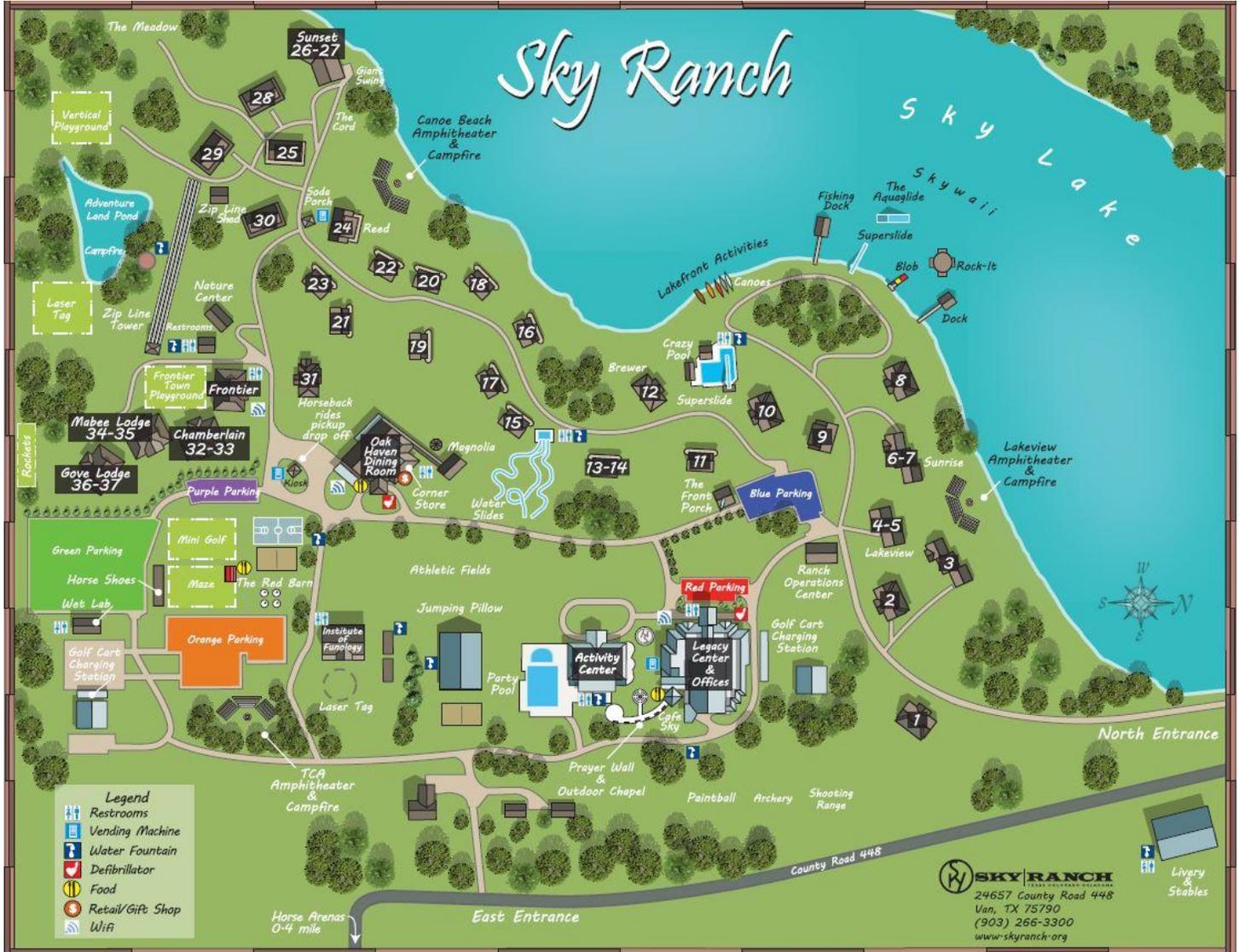
THIS CAMP DOES FINE FOR ALCHOL INCIDENTALS. THE FINE CAN BE UP TO \$1000 PER INCIDENT.



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Item	Description	Who	Done
Clothing (put your name on everything)			
Extra clothing, socks, shoes			
Jeans	Long pants are required for horseback riding		
Warm Jacket			
Rain Gear			
Hiking boots	Closed toe shoes are required for horseback riding		
Back packs			
Circle T-shirts			
Food			
Cooking			
Grill	The fire pits at the camp typically do not have cooking grills.		
Grilling utensils			
Charcoal			
Lighter Fluid			
Matches and Lighter			
Aluminum Foil			
Firewood	Order from the contact provided or BYO. DuraFlame Logs work great to start fires.		
Table cloths			
Eating ware			
Friday Night			
Drinks			
Water			
Burgers/Hot Dogs & Buns			
Chili			
Chips & junk Food			
Saturday Morning (breakfast is served at the dining hall)			
Cereal Bars			
Coffee	Coffee for Dads		
Juice	Look for the juice that does not need to be refrigerated		
Milk	The little Horizon Milk boxes don't need to be kept cold.		
Saturday Night			
Steaks/Chicken			
Hot Dogs and Buns			
Salad			
Condiments			
Sunday Morning			
Cereal Bars			
Coffee			
Juice	Look for the juice that does not need to be refrigerated		
Milk	The little Horizon Milk boxes don't need to be kept cold.		
Snacks/Misc			
Snacks	Variety of individually packed snacks		
Ice	Several large ice chests full to keep drinks cold.		
Smores	Graham crackers, chocolate bars, marsh mellowes		
Fruit	Apples, Bananas, Grapes, etc.		
Accessories			
Lanterns			
Chairs			
Insect and Tic repellent			
Sleeping bag or quilt			
Extra blankets			
Pillows			
Toiletries			
Towels			
Towelettes/Wipes			
Hand soap	Anti-bacterial hand gel for kids is good		
Liquid Dish Soap			
Trash bags			
Flashlight and extra batteries			
Ice Chest			
Necessary Rx Medications			
Recreation			
Fishing Tackle			
Fishing Pole			
Cameras and Film			
Jam box and extra batteries			
First Aid Kit			

Check-In for Friday:

