

Texas Trails Council Summer Camp Operations Statement

Your safety and the safety of all our members, volunteers, and employees are the Texas Trails Council's top priority. In light of COVID-19, we are taking additional precautions for this year's summer camp on top of our long-established health and safety measures.

Before the Texas Trails Council board can make a decision on whether or not we will be able to hold camp this summer, we first must wait on the State of Texas to determine the feasibility of opening. If camps are allowed, we will need to evaluate what the required Health and Safety procedures are and decide if we can as a council make it work under such a small window and tight budget. The State health department will release its regulations on May 19th.

Over the past few months, the Texas Trails Council has been monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19 and discussing how it would impact all our Scouting activities. Of course, Summer Camp operations at both Camp Billy Gibbons (Scout BSA resident camp) and Camp Tonkawa (Cub Resident Camp) are the biggest part of our Scouting activities during this time of year.

Working from an assumption that the State will allow summer camps, after extensive thought and research at the national, local, and board level, as well as participation in discussions with health professionals, the Texas Trails Council Program Committee is proposing that camp will run this Summer but not in the traditional way that we are accustomed to.

During conversations with our Unit leaders from all over the Council, two topics of conversation were consistent. The first, of course, was the health and safety of our youth and leaders. The second was the cost of camp. The National office has held excellent seminars every week covering the health and safety of Youth and Volunteers dealing with COVID-19 in Summer Camp settings. Because of this continued education on health and safety, we will be prepared to run safe programs. The cost of camp was another big obstacle presented to us. This has a lot to do with COVID-19 as well. Not only have many families lost income, but it is very difficult to hold effective fundraisers to help the youth pay for camp.

So, what the Council has decided to do this summer is to hold four (4) mini-camp sessions that are each three days and two nights.

#1 = June 14 - 16 at Camp Billy Gibbons

#2 = June 18 - 20 at Camp Billy Gibbons

#3 = June 21 - 23 at Camp Tonkawa

#4 = June 25 - 27 at Camp Tonkawa

Each session will cost \$125.00 per Scout/Adult and will have a limit of 25 total participants per camp.

Camp Billy Gibbons' two sessions will be all about having FUN with Climbing, Shooting Sports, Fishing, and Aquatic activities. Merit badges will not be the focus of these camps, but they will have the opportunity to earn some if they like.

Camp Tonkawa's first session will also be focused on having FUN with Shooting Sports, COPE/CLIMBING, swimming, and games.

Camp Tonkawa's second session will be focused on the First Year Camper. This session will be all about learning basic Scouting skills to help new Scouts get to 1st Class.

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Model COVID-19 “At-Risk” Camp Participant Statement (Pre-May 21st health Dept release)

First, our council health supervisor, physician Dr. Rance Boren, MD and the health officers on staff are coordinating with state and local health departments to ensure we are aware of and follow their guidance to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 at camp.

Our mitigation plan includes Pre-attendance education:

- Health screening conducted by your unit prior to travel to our camp, including a temperature check.
- Health screening upon your arrival at camp conducted by our camp health officers, which will also include a temperature check.
 - Note: should anyone in the unit not pass the arrival screening, **the entire unit will not be allowed to enter camp.**
- Limits on visitors in camp.
 - All visitors will be screened upon arrival before entry to camp.
 - Visitors will be limited to approved essential visitors, food vendors, equipment vendors for example.
- Hygiene reminders throughout the camp experience.
- Extra handwashing /sanitizer stations throughout camp.
- Dedicated staff to clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces and shared program equipment.
- An emergency response plan that includes isolation and quarantine protocol should a person at camp develop symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable disease.
- Check-ins with each unit/family one week and two weeks after the unit leaves camp to determine if any participants have developed symptoms.

These precautions are important, but they do not remove the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at camp. Some people with COVID-19 show no signs or symptoms of illness but can still spread the virus, and people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. These factors mean that an infected person may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into camp.

We also know the very nature of camp makes social distancing difficult in many situations and impossible in others.

Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. *If you are in this group, please ensure you have a note of approval from your health care provider prior to attending camp.*