



Chaperone's Arrival-Packet

2026-2027

(All adults attending - both teachers and parents)

Our Mission:

The Outdoor School strives to use the outdoors to awaken both ourselves and others to the potential within and around all of us.

Our Philosophies:

Universal Respect & Challenge by Choice:

Don't forget that we want to teach both of these concepts to the students. You can help us by reminding them to be respectful to people, nature, our buildings & equipment... anything that they can see or touch!

You can also help us by allowing students to set their OWN goals and not try to set goals FOR them. Allow our instructors to ask the questions that will help a child be successful... bribing them or yelling at them is not our way.

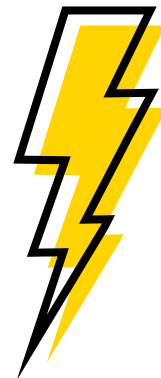


The Schedule:

If we need to make adjustments, we will take into consideration not just your school, but every school on property. Please be patient with us as we work our magic.

Adjusting for inclement weather?

Because we are "The Outdoor School" we are prepared to teach outside in all types of weather. Only during extreme or dangerous weather (freezing rain or lightning, for example) do we seek shelter. If we hear thunder or see lightning we do pull students off of any climbing or water activities. We will generally go out of our way to try and make it up for any team that misses out, but please know that "try" is the operative word in that sentence. Sometimes it is just not possible.



What about Astronomy on cloudy nights?

We generally make the call on Astronomy during dinner so that we can switch instructors from one night to another if need be. Sometimes it is the right call and sometimes it is not. Please be patient with us and be forgiving if the clouds miraculously roll back to reveal beautiful skies, but we no longer have the adequate number of instructors to teach because we've released them for the evening. Also know that seeing one or two stars does not make a good night for astronomy... we need to be able to see whole sections of the sky in order to see entire constellations, not just individual stars here and there.



What should we do before we check out of our cabins?

- Make sure all belongings are out of the cabin BEFORE breakfast.
- Do a good look over for any lost and found.
- Turn off all lights and fans.

Your Role:

Chaperone!

- You should be the last one out of the cabin, always. We will get the students lined up and ready for activities, but we need your help in making sure they are all there. So please make sure all of your students are on their way to their meeting spot, Fillin' Station, pool or lake before you leave.
- Monitor your students in and around the cabin areas and bathrooms. This is your domain. Kids sometimes forget common sense when they are at camp so your presence is crucial. We advise always having a chaperone in or by the bathrooms to make sure students aren't scaring each other by pulling stall doors open. If you are sharing a side of camp with another school, make sure your students aren't near their bathrooms or cabins... even if their cabins have the "cooler toys" by them.
- Listen to announcements. Any time we do group announcements we're letting both the students and you know where to be, when to be there, and what to have.
- After meals, we do announcements and then dismiss. Please leave with your students. If you're not watching them, no one is.
- Help us help your students to be successful learners. We need your help with behavior management because you know the students better than we do and you know what behaviors to expect and the best techniques to use with a particular child.



Attending classes:

We encourage you to go to activities, but also realize that you are in the cabins at night and you may very well need a break. That's why we have a teachers' lounge for you! There are, however, a few classes that DO need extra help or supervision and we ask for your help in order for your student to be successful (and for us to stay on time!). Those classes are:

- Kayaking
- Screamin' Eagle
- Campout
- Pirate Ship (ESL/ELL students MUST have a translator)
- Zipline
- Evening Activities



Where do we go?

Activities mostly start and end at your meeting spot (where we did arrival announcements). So if you are there you will be able to tag along with your students. Exceptions:

- Orientation: We will head straight to our first activity right after Orientation.
- Meals: We will do announcements before the first meal, but for all other meals we ask that you bring the students to the Fillin' Station.
- Swimming: Please bring your students directly to the pool or lake after they change. We will meet you there.



How do we get there?

There are maps of property in the back of this booklet to aid you directionally. If you need assistance finding a particular class, please ask and we can help you!

There are a few activities that walk and/or have no specific site (Teambuilding, Living Off the Land, Cool Things in Nature, Nature Journaling, Art in Nature, Survival Skills). If you want to join your students for these activities, please leave with them as it is difficult to catch you up to them once they've left.

What should we do?

If you follow your students to activities, that's great! We welcome your participation!

- Allow the instructor to instruct. It's OK to share an interesting question or an idea, but hold back from taking over the discussion, or contributing more than a couple of times.
 - Our goal is to help empower students to share their ideas and think together, so it's important to listen more than speak!
 - It can also feel frustrating to an instructor when another adult "hijacks" their class.
- If a student asks a question, your first instinct may be to take out your phone and look to Google. Please don't! We want the students to experience nature not technology. So encourage them to figure it out on their own or with their peers.
- Accept a little bit of chaos. We have a lot of natural distractions here that aren't found in a classroom and it's ok to experience them... allow the students room to live in the moment with curiosity and wonder.
- If an instructor requests your presence for a specific reason, behavior for example, please stay there for the entirety of the lesson. Often students begin magically behaving when you arrive and then they fall apart when you leave. Help us help your students be good learners.

Other times you're needed:

There are other specific times that we need you, and we ask that you be present in case there is an emergency or other situation that we need you to take care of. Those times are:

During Breaks, Rest Time, & After Meals:

These are short periods of monitoring. It is time for the students to use the bathroom and refill their water bottles and it is also time for US to do the same. Please monitor the cabin area and bathrooms to prevent students from engaging in any mischief!

During Free Time::

If your school is not swimming we will ask that you monitor the students during that time as we will be busy elsewhere. There are many different activities that your students can enjoy:

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Football
- Gaga
- Pickleball
- Tennis
- 9-Square in the Air
- Games under cabins
- Sit and read or visit

We do ask that you have your students stay on the same side of camp as their cabins rather than wandering to the other side of camp. We will rely on you to decide if students can be inside their cabins or not. Please ask your students to stay away from another schools' cabins. We ask that no student be on the docks or near the water without a chaperone present. Kayaking is not allowed during free time.



During Swimming::

If your school is swimming, this will take up the majority of your free time. If there are any students who have elected to not swim, we ask that you monitor those students as we will be busy lifeguarding. It is also nice to have chaperones at the swim area in case a student needs help.

The Lake:

We do require that ALL guests (students and adults) wear lifejackets if swimming in the lake regardless of age or swimming ability. Your help in assisting the students in putting on correctly fitting lifejackets will enable us to get them in the water faster. If you decide not to swim yourself but would like to be out on the dock with the students, we ask that you put on a lifejacket. Thank you for your support in this area!





The Pool:

We have a "green band" system that we use. Students listed on their med form as intermediate or advanced get a green band. Those listed as non-swimmer or beginner must wear a lifejacket. They can opt to take a swim check and if we feel they can stay afloat, we will give them a green band. It's a visual cue for us to help keep your students safe!

No cotton clothing is allowed in the pool. No cotton t-shirts may be worn over swimsuits while swimming. Polyester fabric is fine (such as a rash-guard or dri-fit shirt). Cotton fibers clog the filters and create a maintenance nightmare. Please understand our point-of-view and help us enforce that rule.

During Evening activities:

Kids often need a little more attention at night because meds have often worn off by then and also because of homesickness. Your help during this time is invaluable.

- We ask that there be an adult with each group during Astronomy and Night Sensory.
- We ask that adults are present during all other evening activities.
- If you have chosen movie as one of your activities, we will set up the equipment and start the movie, but ask that you are present to monitor the students.
- If you would like to shower during the evening activity, we ask you to stagger your times so that there are always chaperones present and available for the students.

During Showers and Bedtime:

Showers –

- During shower time the students should be monitored. Please watch that they're not trying to pull doors open to frighten their friends.
- Getting all the students through showers can be tricky. Two techniques that some schools have used successfully are:
 - If you have a particularly large school, you may need to limit the time that kids have in the shower so that all can get through before the lights out time.
 - You may want to shower by cabin so that there aren't lines of people waiting to shower.

Bedtime –

- Please observe our quiet time hours. We ask that you get the lights turned off by 10:00 and that you're working toward the all-quiet at 10:15. Voices carry in the dark and even if your cabin flaps are down, a loud cabin can be heard on the other side of camp (and even across the lake!). Please be respectful of your neighboring cabins.
- Conversely, if you have early risers in the morning, allowing them to play basketball or run around outside the cabins can also be disturbing to those still trying to sleep.
- Read to them! This is one of the best ways to get them sleepy!



Ghost Stories:

As mentioned in the pre-packet, ghost stories are not part of our program.



Sleeping Bags:

We have a few extra sleeping bags in the Teachers' Lounge for you to borrow if you have any students who forgot one or it gets soiled in anyway. Take what you need and please return them before you leave.

Bed Wetting:

It can happen and we do not wish for any child to feel embarrassed. Please discretely bring us any soiled bedding/clothing at breakfast. We will wash and dry it and return it by lunch. We are happy to assist with accidents or emergencies, but please know that we are not a laundry service.

Night Time Emergencies:

If a child becomes ill in the middle of the night, there is a tote here in the Teachers' Lounge for you to use. You are welcome to grab a sleeping bag if theirs is soiled and we'll wash the bedding in the morning. If you do need our assistance, please feel free to call the Emergency Phone.

To Help With Behavior:

It's nice if you let us handle behavioral issues as the kids tend to respect us a little more when it comes from us. That being said, you know your students better than we do, and you also know what the standards are for your particular students (every school is slightly different). So we ask that you feel free to step in at any time - you will not be stepping on our toes in any way. Please help us help your students to be successful!



If we DO ask you to come to a particular team for a behavioral issue, we ask that you stay there for the remainder of the period. Kids will magically begin behaving when you are present but revert back to poor behavior once you leave. Please help our instructors to be successful! Feel free to offer them tips and tricks with any students... they do appreciate your expertise!

We do have a simple progressive behavior policy.

- For **minor** violations such as foul language or non-participation, we will verbally warn the student and then take away the Universal Respect bead. If the behavior continues, we will call for a chaperone and discuss options for consequences with you.
- **Medium** violations included bullying, damaging property or stealing and we will immediately call for a teacher.
- **Major** violations include physical aggression or severe breakdowns and will result in the student being sent home.

To Help With Special Needs Students:

If any student has special needs we ask that there be an adult with that student at all times. Special needs can include students with physical limitations, mental limitations and behavior limitations. Please help us help your students be successful!

Nametags & Beads:



Wooden Nametags:

This is an important part of our program and we ask that students wear their nametags practically everywhere.

We do ask that they are responsible with their nametags so we only give them one. If they lose it they do not receive a replacement; if they break it they do not receive a replacement. It's a small lesson in keeping track of, being responsible for and respecting what they have been given. If it breaks because it is weak or if we misspell their names, we will gladly replace it as it is our fault.

Beads:

Each of our activities has a bead that corresponds to that activity. Students have the opportunity to earn those beads during their trip. There are two very simple things that they must do to earn the beads:

1. They must have their nametag ON and
2. They must participate positively in the activity.

During orientation we ask that all students agree to abide by Universal respect. The first bead they will earn is the Universal Respect bead; it is also the first bead they can lose. We will take it if they behave poorly but they can always earn it back again if their behavior changes.

Chaperones:

We will ask you to make a nametag for security purposes - we know you are supposed to be here if you have a nametag on. You are welcome to earn beads right along with the students. Please know that the instructors are focused on the students and may legitimately forget that you are there. Feel free to stick out your hand to receive yours too. We do ask that you actually attend the activity to earn your bead... the students will call you out if you sneak in the last 5 minutes of a class and then take a bead!

Fillin' Station

We want to say "thank-you" for being chaperones on this trip, and one way we can do that is by allowing you to go through the meal line first. So if you are there, we'll let you on in. The exception to this is that we need one of you to monitor the line for behavior. Thank you for your help on this. We have tables set up for you - there are signs on the tables, so look for the one with your school name and "teachers" on it.

General Fillin' Station rules:

- Hand sanitizer is required. If allergic, there is a sink with soap inside.
- Students that have dietary restrictions (vegetarian, gluten free, severe allergies, etc) will have a plate set aside with their name on it. They need to advocate for themselves and let the servers know who they are.
- Students can say "no thank you" or "just a little please" to the servers to control their own portions.

- For breakfast, there is cold cereal, fruit and yogurt in addition to the hot line. There is also juice at the drink station.
- For lunch and dinner, there is a salad bar/sandwich bar in addition to the hot line.
- Coffee and tea is for adults only. Coffee is available at breakfast only. If you are an early riser or need coffee throughout the day, there are coffee-making supplies in each Teachers' Lounge.
- Seconds will be called by the Director on Duty when everyone has gone through the line for firsts. We will call one table up at a time to avoid running and long lines.
- Students should stay seated unless they are getting seconds to reduce chaos.
- ONLY adults may get ice. No student-hands in the ice machine.
- Wipe down your table when finished.
- Stay in the Fillin' Station until after-meal announcements have been made.

Your Role:

We want you to enjoy your meal. Feel free to sit with your coworkers and let us handle the students... we'll let you know if we need you for something.

At the end of each meal we will do announcements. Once the announcements are finished, we'll ask you if you have anything to add. And then we'll dismiss the students. Please be prepared to leave with them so that they have supervision.

Least Waste

We want kids to begin to think about their impact on the environment and how they can reduce that impact. One practical way that we do that at The Outdoor School is by reducing the amount of food that is wasted in our Fillin' Station. The basic idea is this: After each meal, the amount of food that is left over is weighed. The goal then is to reduce the total waste as a school by 25% from the first meal. Each person (student AND chaperone) contributes to the overall goal, so the less an individual wastes, the less the school wastes. If, at the end of the trip, the goal is achieved, everyone receives the Least Waste bead. If the goal is not achieved, no one receives the Least Waste bead.

In the spirit of Least Waste, if you would like to purchase an Outdoor School coffee mug rather than using Styrofoam for your morning coffee, we have them in the Teachers' Lounge. They are \$10 and there is a basket there for you to place your money in. You can also purchase one ahead of time by going to www.kneemanmarkus.com. Let us know you did it that way and we'll pull a mug from inventory and bring it to you!



Our Facilities:

Cabins:

If your cabin has wooden window flaps as opposed to the vinyl flaps:

- We ask that the wooden window flaps are either all the way open or all the way closed. If they are partly raised it is easy for someone to walk into them on the outside of the cabins and injure themselves.
- If it starts to rain and they are all the way open, lower them so that water doesn't funnel onto the top bunks.
- It takes two people to raise/lower the flaps. If the flaps are allowed to slam down rather than being slowly lowered they can break.
- If you close the flaps at night, it is always a good idea to turn the "locks" on the outside to prevent them from banging in the wind. You'll sleep better!

Please do not let students write in or on the cabins.



Bathrooms:

We DO have hot water, but due to TCEQ and Health Department rules, we cannot turn it scalding. Please understand that there is nothing we can do about this!



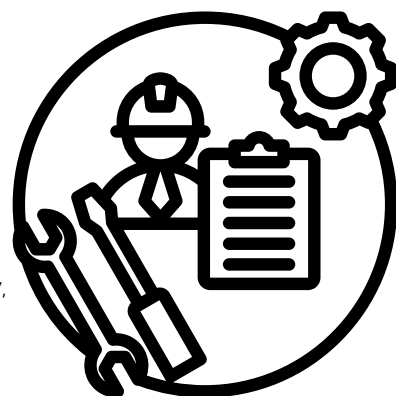
Our toilets are also low flow and we have discovered that children use waaaaay too much toilet paper causing them to clog. Please help us remind them that just a few squares will work. And a reminder that "disposable wipes" are not actually disposable... they clog the septic grinder pump. Please do not flush ANYTHING but toilet paper!

If you walk into a bathroom and hear a toilet running, please jiggle the handle to allow the flapper to flap down and not constantly run.

Maintenance & Housekeeping:

We want you to enjoy your stay here, and so we want our facilities to work properly for you. If anything needs attention please let us know! We can't fix it if we don't know it's broken, so communication is key.

Our maintenance and housekeeping teams are generally here from 7am to 3pm. If there are issues that need attention after they have left for the day, we will attempt to fix it, but it may need to be on their list for the next day. If it is truly an emergency we will call someone in from home.



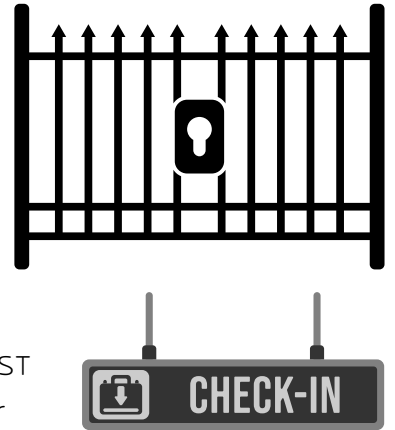
Safety & Security:

Your Students:

It is important to us to know where your students are at all times. If you have one feeling ill and you want them to lie down for a bit, please let us know so we're not running around looking for them. If a student goes home (or arrives late), let us know so we know who is here.

Front Gate:

Our front gate is open during the day, generally from 6am to dusk. Anyone needing to get onto the property while the gate is closed will need to utilize the keypad at the gate (not your cell phone). This will call the emergency phone and we can let them in if they belong.



Visitors:

Please no visitors. If you have a school administrator coming for the day or a parent picking up a sick child, or anyone else coming for valid reasons they MUST check in at the office to receive a "visitor" badge. Please ask them to go to our office FIRST before they call your cell phone. Thank you!

First Aid:

- We all carry first aid kits with us so that we can take care of whatever may arise out on the trails. In addition, there are First Aid supplies in the Teachers' Lounge that you have access to. Everything we have is topical; we have nothing ingestible.
- If your school is bringing a nurse along, that's wonderful! If you would like to set up a central area to be we will be happy to work with you in designating a location that is convenient. We ask that you not use the Teachers' Lounge as a nurse station as we want to reserve that space for teachers only.
- If a student is running a fever, we ask that the student go home.

Emergency Action Plan:

We have a well-established EAP and know our roles within it.

- If an instructor radios with an emergency, the Director on Duty will take over/assign all roles while the instructors cares for the injured child (or adult).
- We will alert you immediately so that you can do what you need to on your school's side.
- If 911 needs to be called, we will do so. If parents need to be called, we will ask you to do so.
- If a child goes to the hospital, we ask that only one adult, two at the most, accompany them. All other adults need to remain here as the rest of the students here need supervision.
- If YOU call 911, please also let us know so that we're not surprised by an ambulance driving down our road!

Emergency Facilities:

Directions to facilities are in the back of this packet.

If you DO need to transport a student, for medical care, we ask three things:

1. Please let the Director on Duty know what is happening.
2. Ask us for a copy of the medical form and take it with you. The hospital will not treat a child without the signed "permission to treat" section on the Medical Form.
3. Only one or two adults need to go. The other adults are needed to remain on the property to supervise the remaining students.

Severe Weather:

We pay VERY close attention to the weather and are acutely aware when storms draw near. We constantly monitor the radar so we know when and where the weather will strike.

Lightning:

We follow Red Cross protocols regarding lighting. We use both our lightning meter and "Spark" on the WeatherBug app to see how far away lightning is. If it is:

- 20-40 miles away we continue activities and closely monitor conditions.
- 8-20 miles away we pull students off any climbing and water activities, and all activities on the trails are brought back to main camp.
- 3-8 miles away we are under shelter on main camp.
- 0-3 miles away we send all guests back to their cabins.

Tornado:

If a tornado warning is issued we will ask you to seek shelter with your students. You have two options - we advise the first option, but if you prefer all your student to be together, the second option is also viable:

1. Guests should take shelter in their cabin, under bunks, pulling mattresses down over them. If your cabin is elevated, you should go to a cabin on the ground.
2. Guests can take shelter in the bathrooms. They are made of cinderblock and sturdy.

Moving about:

Lightning is dangerous! Once we seek shelter we ask that you, as well as the students, stay put. We will communicate with you so that you know when it is alright to come out... if you do not hear from us, stay put! If at all possible, do not allow students to run from cabin to bathroom during severe weather.

Nighttime:

No news is good news! The Director on Duty will be aware of any weather rolling in during the night. If you do not hear from us, everything is ok! We will make sure all guests are taken care of during bad weather during the nighttime hours.

During meals:

If bad weather comes right before a meal is to be served and you are sent to your cabins, stay there! We will delay a meal if necessary, but if lightning or bad weather is directly on top of us, walking across the field to get to the Fillin' Station is not a wise decision. We will let you know as soon as we can when it is alright to start coming over to the Fillin' Station.



Flood Preparedness

Health and safety is always our top priority.

We are fortunate to be in a specific location that has very low risk of emergency situations, but we still train our staff on how to monitor and handle rain events at The Outdoor School.

Flood Risk on Lake LBJ

We feel grateful to be located on a wide lake that does not experience flash flooding.

We have seen the level rise a few times over the last 25 years, and in each case the lake rose slowly over a period of hours, leaving ample time to adjust and relocate people and belongings as needed.

There has never been flash flooding in our location or rushing water on our property.

The reason has to do with the exceptionally low "drainage density" in our area.

Drainage density is a term that measures total density of stream channels (runoff zones) over a basin's land area. High drainage density areas produce flash flooding, whereas low drainage density areas have water that rises much more slowly.

In short, we do not see flash flooding in our location (even in heavy rain events) because there are very few stream channels to collect water and funnel it into one place.

In the event of heavy rains, we closely watch the levels of our lake's primary tributaries (the Colorado River and the Llano River). We are also fortunate that the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) actively manages the level of Lake LBJ, especially during rain events. Lake LBJ is a "constant level lake" that the LCRA specifically manages to prevent flooding.

In the July 2025 rain event, Lake LBJ slowly rose about a foot on the evening of July 4 before subsiding to normal levels due to the LCRA's management of the downstream floodgates.

The combination of low drainage density, LCRA management, and effective monitoring stations along both the Colorado River and Llano River allows us to be fully prepared to monitor rain events and make adjustments if necessary.

If any emergency event requires us to move everyone off the property in an expedited manner, Burnet County will deploy buses to our location and relocate everyone to a safe meeting location such as the public high school to await further instructions.

All the Random Bits Left Over:

Cell Phones:

Your phone –

We know you're still working and understand that you may need to make or receive a call or text.

- Please walk away to do so.
- It is very helpful if you turn it to vibrate or silent so it doesn't disturb activities.
- Please do not allow any student, even your child, to have access to your phone during activities.



Student phones –

- Students should not have cell phones during the day, including evening activities, unless its needed for monitoring their diabetes or other life-threatening condition.
- If this is true, it should be kept in their pocket or bag so that there is no temptation to use it or become a distraction to other students.

Phones as cameras –

- Your phone may be used for pictures if your school allows that.
- Students may not use a phone as a camera. The packing list states to bring a disposable camera.



Internet:

We do have wireless. Please understand that our service out here in the "country" is sometimes hit-or-miss. You will have connectivity in/near the Teachers' Lounge. The signal does not reach to the cabin area. The network you are looking for and the password is posted in the Teachers' Lounge.

Water Bottles and Stations:

We have one water bottle station on each side of camp. These are the big blue Water Monsters under Olympia and Parthenon. If your school is meeting at an alternate location, we will have water coolers for you there.

PLEASE make sure all students have a water bottle! We do not have extras for those who do not have one. If anyone forgot theirs, we do have water bottles for sale in our camp store or there is a Dollar General about 3 miles away.

Lost and Found:

Lost and found buckets can be found at your meeting space, the pool, the waterfront, and the Fillin' Station. In addition, there is a large lost and found area in front of the Fillin' Station by the pickleball courts.

Camp Store:

- If your school has chosen to have store time, it is reflected on your schedule.
- If your school has chosen to have pre-orders, we will hand those out at some point during your trip.
- If your school has chosen to do only the TOS tee, we will need a list of students and the size/color that they want. We'll pull the tees and give them to you in a bundle.



Drones:



If anyone brought a drone, you must supply us with a copy of your FAA license and proof of insurance. You must also sign a waiver stating that any damages caused by your drone will be covered by you or your insurance.

We respectfully ask that you not:

- Swim without a TOS lifeguard present.
- Kayak without your school.
- Leave property en masse

PLEASE

THANK
YOU

DIRECTIONS TO MINOR EMERGENCY AND HOSPITAL

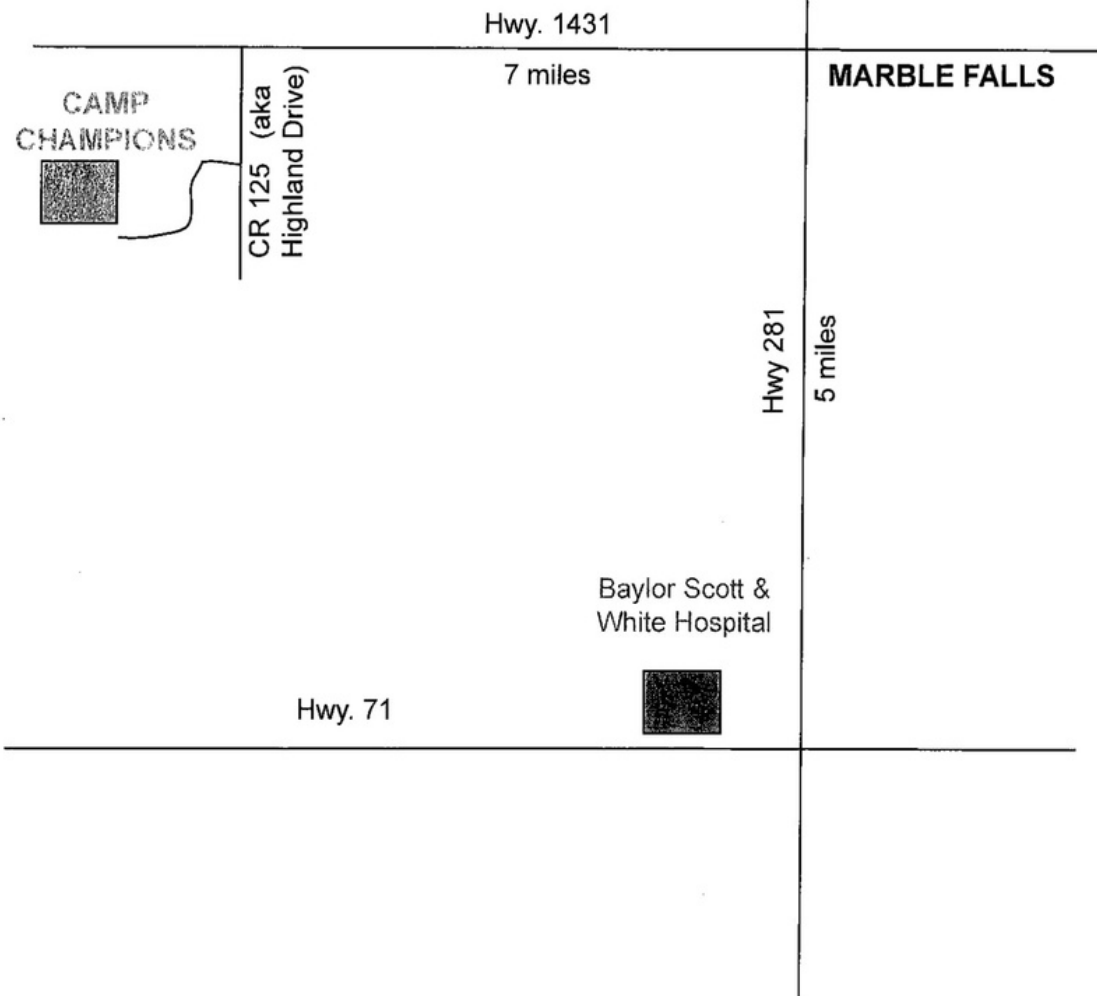
Camp Champions
775 Camp Road
Marble Falls TX 78654
830-598-6282 (day) or 512-755-5378 (night)

Marble Falls Minor Emergency -- 21 minutes
1701 N. US Highway 281 13.8 miles
Marble Falls TX 78654
830-798-1122

Scott & White Hospital -- 22 minutes
810 West Hwy 71 14.3 miles
Marble Falls, TX. 78654
830-201-8000

 Marble Falls
Minor Emergency

Marble Heights Drive





Teambuilding Sites Map

