



# SUMMER HANDBOOK



**Camp Fire** | Central Texas



## ***Welcome to Summer Camp!***

We are excited to have your child join us as we begin a new summer opening camp Balcones at Emma Long Park.

The information provided is to help you gain a better understanding of how camp is structured and what to expect for your campers summer fun.

*Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.*

Contacting camp - Please use the CAMP PHONE. This phone will be used as your main communication during the summer. Please do not ask counselors for cell phone numbers. It detracts from the time that is spent with our campers. The number will be provided via email.

Arrival and Departure - There are two possibilities for camp arrival and departure. The first is traditional drop off and pick up by parents at Camp Balcones. Parents may pickup or drop off between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm each day.

Drop off: simply bring your camp kid to camp and log in with the counselors on duty. ***Drop off at the HQ building only.***

Pick up: you **MUST** go to the HQ building A staff member will locate your camper by schedule on the property and have them brought to you.

***Parents must pickup campers at the HQ building only.***

You may also drop off and pick up at the van routes. They are NW Rec, Maplewood Elementary and Bowie High School. Times are listed in the schedule.

**Discipline Measures** - The measure taken will be determined at the time of the incident. The following are some measures used.

- **CORRECTION** - Camper is reminded of the rules and is asked once again to follow them.
- **SAFE PLACE** - Campers is asked to take a break (no longer than 15 minutes) in order to cool-off and calm down. This may not be possible on the trail or in certain program locations
- **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS** - Serious problems will be conveyed to the parent immediately by phone. Small problems will be communicated at the end of the camp day. Parents also may be informed of any "safe place" period administered.
- **SUSPENSION/WITHDRAWAL** - Serious or continuing problems may result in suspension and/or immediate withdrawal. This de-termination is made by the camp director.
- **Note:** No refund will be issued for suspension or withdrawal

**Personal Belongings** - Personal items should be left at home as they can get lost, stolen, or broken. Any items brought in must have prior approval by the camp director. Camp Fire of Central Texas is not responsible for any items lost or damaged. Please do not bring money to camp.

**Phones** - Are not allowed at camp. Please leave phones at home.

**Lost and Found** - Items not claimed by Friday of the current week will be given to charity.

**Clothing** - The campers are outside for the majority of the day, so please dress the campers according to the weather. All campers must wear appropriate closed toed footwear to camp. They should also bring a hat to shade their faces and eyes from the sun.

**Appropriate Footwear** - Our camp is a outdoor nature based camp. Campers **MUST** wear closed toe shoes each day. No sandals or flip flops allowed at any time. Please label all articles of clothing with family name. Please have campers bring water shoes. We are in a natural body of water.

## **Activity Period Sessions**

**Swimming/ Waterfront** - During Swimming or Waterfront, your camper will be on the water. They will be exposed to Canoeing and Kayaking during the week as well as having a daily opportunity to swim.

**Art** - This will take place at the covered and shaded park pavilion. It is a weeklong themed opportunity to explore creativity and learn traditional camp crafts like Lanyards, etc. Campers may also participate in Art as a integrated activity rather than a stand alone program.

**Archery/Outdoor Games** We will provide weekly exposure to Archery. In addition this period will be about typical camp games, scavenger hunts and a time connect with friends in their group.

**Science/Outdoor Programs** During Science and Outdoor programs your camper will be hiking, fishing, exploring the park and learning weekly theme specific subject matter that gives them a broad understanding of how we all fit in this amazing ecosystem that is earth.

Additionally, during each day your camper will participate in Council Circle. It is during this time they will work as a group on a specific project to present to the circle each day. It is a time for building the spirit and intent of Camp Fire to help each of our kids "Find the Spark, Lift Their Voice and Discover who THEY ARE". Your camper will have time during each day to reflect and journal on their experiences. If your child likes to journal, please put a small notebook in their backpack for reflection.

Tying all of this together is a weekly project. It is tied to the property and will serve as a lesson on the importance of service to others. Possibilities include things such as bat or bird houses, trail work, debris removal from camp sites etc. The projects will be guided by the groups.

***Thank you for joining Camp Fire!  
We are happy to welcome you to the family.***



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## Tentative Schedule

*This schedule can change but is provided as a guideline.*

- 9:45 Flag raising/AM Announcements - *All Gather*
- 10:20 First Activity Period
- 11:20 Activity Change
- 11:35 Lunch
- 12:05 Lunch Ends
- 12:20 *Second Activity Period*
- 1:20 *Second Activity Period Ends*
- 1:35 Third Activity Period
- 1:20 3rd Activity Period
- 2:35 3rd Activity Period Ends
- 3:00 All gather at Cabin
- 3:45 Snack and Van Loading
- 4:00 Vans Depart
- Outdoor games/ Indoor games and reflection
- 5:00 Camp Closes/ After camp begins

**Swimming** The campers will swim daily conditions permitting. It is recommended that children bring a swimsuit and towel. Always wear bathing suit under morning clothes. They will be carrying personal items with them each day so please ensure it is easily handled by your camper. Campers should come to camp with sunscreen already applied. They will have time before swimming to apply more. Campers must be able to apply their own sunscreen. Counselors will also remind campers to reapply during the day. We understand the importance of sunscreen. We can not however apply it or require a child to apply it. We also can not supervise the application of each campers sunscreen. Please take the time to ensure your camper knows this importance self-care process before arrival at camp.

No pool toys or floats allowed. Certified life vests are allowed. Campers will be required to carry those with them during the day. We do not have storage.

**Swim Test** - All campers are assumed to be non-swimmers pending a swim test on the first day. Once campers have been swim tested they will be given a Tyvek band for the week. **DO NOT REMOVE THIS BAND.** This BAND INDICATES YOUR CHILDS SWIMMING ABILITY. It must remain on their wrist for the ENTIRE WEEK.

**Grouping** - All of our campers will be grouped by age. We can't honor requests to move children from group to group.

**Lunch & Snack** - It is the parents' responsibility to pack a lunch with beverage for their child every day. We will provide a daily afternoon snack. Please ensure they have their water bottle each day. A camper that does not have a water bottle will be provided one if available. Parent accounts will be charged \$5.00.

**Absences and Refunds** - *There are no refunds for absences.* There are no refunds within 30 days of camp. Parents may ex-change a week for a different week if there is space available but we can't process refunds. The fee to transfer a week of camp once the camp season has started is \$50.00. The late fee is \$1.00 per minute per child. It must be paid prior to camp return. The late fee begins at 5:00 each day. If you are late at van pickup the same fee applies. We have to keep our schedule and we need parents to be our partners in this process.

**Back Pack & T-shirt** - Every camper will receive a back pack and t-shirt on the first day of the first camp they attend for the summer. Replacements are available. T-shirts are ten dollars and back packs are \$5.00 each. Each camper must have their water bottle with them at camp every day. If your child arrives without one, we will supply another if available and your account will be charged for it.



