EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
*of West Texas*




# SUMMER CAMP HANDBOOK



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# SUMMER 2027

**Primary**: rising 3rd, 4th, 5th grade

**Intermediate**: rising 6th & 7th grade

**Junior High**: rising 8th & 9th grade

**Senior High**: rising 10th,11th, 12th grade (and recently graduated 12th graders)

| | |
|---|---|
| **May 30-June 4** | **Primary Camp A** |
| **June 6-12** | **Junior High A** |
| **June 13-19** | **Senior High A** |
| **June 20-26** | **Intermediate Camp A** |
| **June 27-July 3** | **Junior High B** |
| **July 11-17** | **Senior High B** |
| **July 25-31** | **Intermediate Camp B** |
| **August 1-6** | **Primary Camp B** |

***Please note:** Primary sessions end on Fridays*



WELCOME TO

# CAMP CAPERS

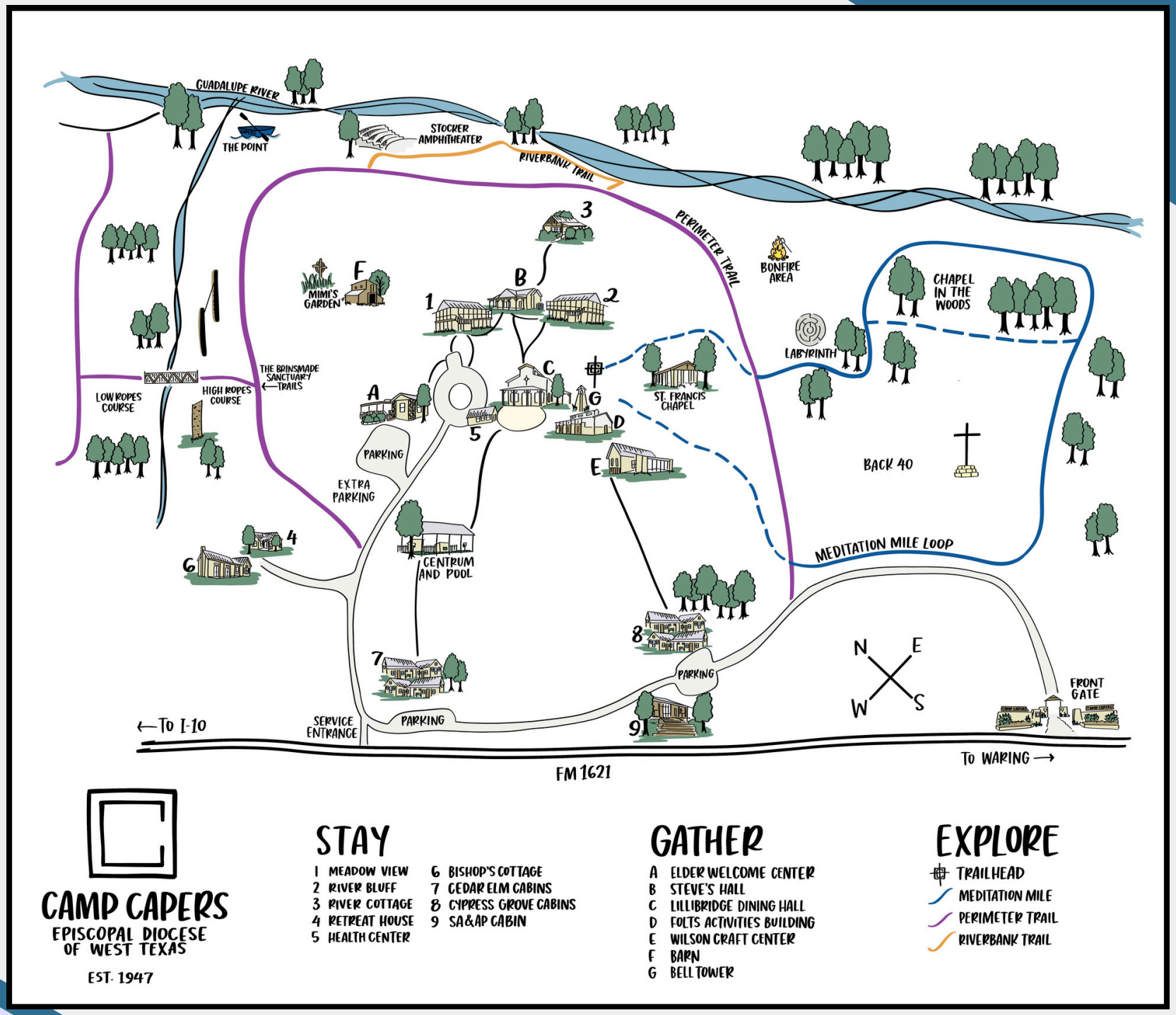
## Our Mission

**Camp Capers is an Episcopal camp located in the Texas Hill Country on the Guadalupe River in the Diocese of West Texas. An atmosphere of caring and acceptance pervades the camp programs of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. Children, youth and adults work, play and grow together as they develop a community of trust, openness and sharing. Summer Camp at Camp Capers offers children & youth ages 8-18 the opportunity to experience the unconditional love and friendship of a Christian community while attending a one-week session. Through God's grace, Camp Capers is committed to offering fun, life-changing experiences to children and youth in a safe, Christ-centered community. Camp Capers serves youth from all different religious backgrounds and denominations. Our worship follows the liturgy of the Episcopal Church, utilizing the Book of Common of Prayer and the Holy Bible.**

**Physical Address**
418 FM 1621
Waring, Texas 78074

**Mailing Address**
Camp Capers
P.O. Box 9
Waring, Texas 78074

**Contact Us!**
830.995.3966
camp.capers@dwtx.org


GUADALUPE RIVER
THE POINT
STOCKER AMPHITHEATER
RIVERBANK TRAIL
PERIMETER TRAIL
BONFIRE AREA
CHAPEL IN THE WOODS
LABYRINTH
MIMI'S GARDEN
THE BRINSMADE SANCTUARY TRAILS
LOW ROPES COURSE
HIGH ROPES COURSE
ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL
PARKING
EXTRA PARKING
BACK 40
MEDITATION MILE LOOP
CENTRUM AND POOL
SERVICE ENTRANCE
FRONT GATE
N
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W
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←To I-10
To WARING →
FM 1621
CAMP CAPERS
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS
EST. 1947
STAY
1 MEADOW VIEW
2 RIVER BLUFF
3 RIVER COTTAGE
4 RETREAT HOUSE
5 HEALTH CENTER
6 BISHOP'S COTTAGE
7 CEDAR ELM CABINS
8 CYPRESS GROVE CABINS
9 SA&AP CABIN
GATHER
A ELDER WELCOME CENTER
B STEVE'S HALL
C LILLIBRIDGE DINING HALL
D FOLTS ACTIVITIES BUILDING
E WILSON CRAFT CENTER
F BARN
G BELL TOWER
EXPLORE
TRAILHEAD
MEDITATION MILE
PERIMETER TRAIL
RIVERBANK TRAIL

# CAMP **PREPARATION**

## Camper Forms via Ultracamp



The forms below must be completed before arriving at Check-In on opening day of your camper's session:

- On the Documents Center page under Camp Capers
  - **Camp Capers - Camper Profile**
  - **Camp Capers - Camper Release**
  - **Camp Capers Youth Assumption of Risk**
- At the bottom of the Documents Center page
  - **Health History**
  - **DWTX and Camps Internet Policy**
- **Authorized Pick-Up List**
  - Update authorized pick-ups on the main page of your Ultracamp account
- **Medications**
  - On the main page of your Ultracamp account, select an individual to update their medications. Then, on the next page, select "Medications" & "Manage Medications".

To update or complete forms, on your account's main page click the upper left three lines for the side menu, click the "Document Center" tab on your account's main page. These forms need to be updated **no later than 3 days prior** to the opening day of your camper's session.

## Pre-Camp Health Precautions

Camper health and safety is our top priority. To help us mitigate the risk of illness at camp, please do not bring your camper if they are not feeling well. Camp is a physically demanding environment, and if your camper is already feeling sick, the chances of feeling better at camp are low. Please consult your doctor if your camper has recently been exposed to or suffered an illness to help us keep camp a safe and healthy place for all campers.

During camp check-in, you will be asked to fill out our 24-hour healthcare form that contains questions about your camper's overall physical health. We ask that you answer these questions honestly so we can better serve your camper and keep the camp community healthy.

If you have any questions about our communicable disease plan, please contact Johnson Jeffers, Director of Camp Capers, at johnson.jeffers@dwtx.org or call the Camp Capers office at 830-995-3966.

# Medications

Please make sure all medications are up-to-date for your camper(s) prior to their camp session. This is incredibly helpful for the Camp Capers Health Care Professional when treating and caring for your camper(s).

Please make sure you pack **ALL** medicine for your camper, both prescription and non-prescription, in the correct corresponding original bottle or container that includes the name of the medicine, the dosage, and the name of the camper (when applicable).

**We cannot accept medicine that is dropped off in unlabeled packaging (Zip-loc bag, Tupperware, pill organizer, etc.).**

**All medication must be turned in to the Camp Capers Health Care Professional during our drive-through check-in. This includes non-prescription medication, prescription medication, vitamins, and other supplements.**

Camp Capers stocks most over-the-counter medication, therefore parents do not need to pack any common as-needed medication.

# CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS










Camp Capers, Mustang Island Family Camp, and Duncan Park are wonderful and life changing places to learn, deepen faith, and experience God's love. We never want financial need to prevent a camper or family from participating in our programming. The Camps & Conferences Department believes that no child should miss out on a camp experience because of financial limitations.

A typical Camp Capers scholarship is an agreement between the camper family or retreat participant, their local Episcopal church, and the Diocese/Camp Capers to each pay for 1/3 of the session registration fee. You do not need to be a member of the Episcopal Church to receive scholarship assistance.

**Please visit our website for more information on Scholarship Assistance and to download the Camp Capers Scholarship Form.**

If you have questions, contact the Camp Capers Office Manager, (camp.capers@dwtx.org; 830-995-3966) or Camps & Conferences Director, Rob Watson (rob.watson@dwtx.org).

# SUMMER CAMP **PACKING LIST**

Campers are welcome to pack their belongings in a trunk, duffel bag, suitcase, or plastic drawers. Storage space is limited in the cabins. We will assist campers to the best of our ability to create an adequate amount of space for their luggage.

- Water Bottle
- Twin bedding or sleeping bag
- Pillow & pillow case
- Comfortable clothes & pajamas
- Underwear and socks for a week
- Old clothes for messy activities
- Modest active wear swimsuit(s)
- Tennis shoes & pool shoes
- Water shoes (mandatory for river use, closed toe recommended, back strap is required on all sandals, Crocs are not allowed in the river)
- Shampoo, soap, deodorant etc.
- Comb and brush
- Towels (one for pool/river and one for shower) and washcloths
- Long sleeved shirt or light jacket
- Sunscreen
- Flashlight with new batteries
- Bug spray
- Extra blanket or sleeping bag for cool nights, movie night and bonfire
- Stationery/postcards to write letters & stamps (please self-address and stamp envelopes for younger campers)
- Optional items: Non-digital camera (not a cell phone), musical instruments, small fan for cabin
- **FOR SENIOR HIGH ONLY** - sleeping bag, hammock, and backpack for campout
- Vehicles- If a camper drives to camp, they must park their vehicle in the designated parking area and give their keys to their counselor

**What Not to Bring:**

- **NO** electronic devices, cell phones, iPads, etc. If these are brought to camp, they will be taken up and returned to parents at the closing.
- **NO** weapons, knives, firearms, fireworks, etc.
- **NO** illegal substances: alcohol, drugs, non-prescription drugs, vaping or tobacco products.
- **NO** money is needed during the week, and snacks are not allowed in the cabins.
- **NO** pets.

**Camp Capers cannot be responsible for jewelry and other valuables or articles left or lost at camp.**



# TIPS FOR PARENTS:
# **Homesickness**

Missing home and each other is normal, and it even happens among the staff and camp directors! Here are some tried and true tips for helping you and your camper(s) deal with missing home and each other and preparing them for fully investing in the camp experience!

It's important to talk with your camper before leaving for camp to discuss any worries they may have about being away from home.

Our staff foster a nurturing environment which will help alleviate any homesick tendencies, and homesickness is a topic of particular concern that we focus on during our staff training.

How YOU talk with your camper about their time away from home has the biggest impact on their outlook on their camp experience.

**Please strive to be positive, upbeat, and keep the focus on your camper and the welcoming, accepting, and exciting time they can expect to have at camp.** Acknowledging you will miss them helps them know you care, but please pair it with positive, solution-based comments such as "We can't wait to hear from you when you write us letters!", "We know you'll have a great time and that makes us happy!", "We are proud of you for trying something new."

Please **NEVER** promise to pick up your camper or let them call home if they are not having a good time. This creates a barrier to your camper fully investing in the camp experience and all it has to offer.




TIPS FOR PARENTS:

# Homesickness

## Remember

Specific concerns can be noted on the registration/health forms online, emailed to the Program Director (programcc@dwtx.org), or discussed over the phone prior to your camper's session. In all cases, the information you share will be kept confidential and shared with only the appropriate staff parties. It is extremely helpful for us to be aware of potential stressors or anxieties campers may bring to camp so we can prepare appropriately. In this way, we can meet the camper where they are and help them have the best time possible at camp.

If your camper is experiencing extreme homesickness, we will be in contact to discuss ways to make them more comfortable at camp. Our number one goal is to support and encourage all of our campers to experience the joy of camp. However, we know camp can be overwhelmingly new to a handful of youth. With our staff's training and our intentional conversations with families, we hope to support your camper to the best of our abilities while they are at camp.

# Camp Life

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## Camp Rules

On every opening day, we begin our time together with songs, funny introductions of staff, and presenting our rules for our time at camp. These rules and guidelines set a foundation for us to have a fantastic week that ensures the safety, respect, and well-being of our campers & staff. Please take time with your camper to review the camp rules.



**Camper Conduct Rules**

1. Respect others and their property.
2. No swimming (pool or river) without a lifeguard present and with their permission.
3. Do not litter.
4. No vandalism.
5. Observe nature – do not disturb.
6. Stay on trails.
7. No food, gum, candy, or electronic equipment allowed in the cabin.
8. Your counselor must know where you are at all times. Never go anywhere alone.
9. All vehicles and maintenance areas are off limits.
10. Fires are only to be built in designated areas and only by staff members.
11. No firearms, fireworks, weapons, pocket knives, or pets allowed.
12. Use of nonprescription drugs, tobacco products vaping, or alcohol are strictly prohibited and offenders will be sent home.
13. Bullying will not be tolerated. We are called to respect the dignity of every human being.
14. No pranks or raids.
15. Stay in your own cabin.
16. No romantic or sexual activity.
17. Zero Tolerance Policy for any kind of offensive, derogatory, and hurtful language

***The first night of camp is the only grace period for campers to turn in any items they should not have at camp to their counselors.***
***Items will then be turned into the Camp Director or Program Director.***

***If any camp rules are broken during the camp session, parents/guardians will be contacted. Consequences will be determined on a case by case basis.***

# Camp Life

## Daily Schedule

Below is an example of our daily schedule at camp.
Daily activities may vary based on camp session.
The typical camp day includes many activities and opportunities for campers to build relationships, grow in their faith, and enjoy their time in the Texas Hill Country. Program activities may vary based on age restrictions, weather conditions, and other factors.



**8:00a** Breakfast
**8:45a** Cabin Clean Up
**9:15a** Chapel
**9:50a** Activities and Teaching
**10:55a** Activities and Teaching
**12:00p** Lunch
**12:30p** Rest Period
**2:30p** Pool/River and Arts & Crafts
**3:45p** Canteen
**4:15p** Pool/River and Arts & Crafts
**5:20p** Free Time
**6:00p** Dinner
**6:45p** Singing
**7:00p** Evening Activity 1
**8:00p** Canteen (Senior High & Junior High only)
Chapel (Primary, Intermediate)
**8:30p** Evening Activity 2 (Junior High & Senior High only)
Cabin Time/Devotionals (Primary, Intermediate)
**9:00p** Chapel (Junior High)
**9:30p** Chapel (Senior High)
Cabin Time/Devotionals (Junior High)
Lights Out (Primary, Intermediate)
**10:00p** Cabin Time/Devotionals (Senior High)
**10:30p** Lights Out (Junior High)
**11:00p** Lights Out (Junior High & Senior High)

SCHEDULE **DESCRIPTIONS**

## Meals

All meals are served by our camp staff, with the exception of our self-serve salad and fruit bar. Our kitchen staff rely on the camper's registration to be made aware of all allergies and dietary restrictions to prepare alternative meal offerings as needed. Sandwich supplies are available at every meal. Breakfast is served at 8:00 AM, Lunch at 12:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM.

## Cabin Clean Up

The cabin works together to tidy up and clean their living space.

## Chapel

We book-end our days at camp with worship. Based on the Episcopal tradition, chapel includes singing, praying, and listening to scripture.

## Morning Activities

Rotations typically include archery, low ropes, high ropes, sports game, and/or creation care.

## Teaching

Interactive lessons taught by our clergy, ministers, and other lay people related to the theme of the camp session that week. This time typically includes activities and discussions among cabins.

## Rest Period

Time in the cabins for campers to enjoy quiet activities and/or nap

## Afternoon Activities

Pool, river (kayaking & swimming), arts & crafts



SCHEDULE **DESCRIPTIONS**

## Canteen

Free snack time on the centrum, spend time with others, various open games (please do not send your camper(s) with money for canteen; all campers will receive free snacks during their camp session)

## Evening Activities

Games including the whole camp at once, typically working together as a cabin, or CHAOS, a camper choice activity when counselors teach a skill or game (counselors have another outstanding skill)

## Free Time

Campers choose where they would like to spend their time-arts & crafts, games on the centrum, reading a book outside (all areas are supervised by counselors)

## Cabin Time/Devotionals

Evening time after chapel spent debriefing the day and material from teaching

## Lights Out

Bedtime after a long fun day at camp

## Last Night of Camp

Campers and staff gather for a variety show and campfire where campers are welcome to share their talents and gifts along with camp stories told by staff members.

## Birthdays at Camp

Don't worry! We celebrate birthdays at camp!
We will ensure your camper has a wonderful day & a special treat.



# CAMP
# STAFF

## Site Staff

Year-round staff who support and lead summer camp

- Camp Capers Director: Johnson Jeffers
- Summer Camp Director: Daniel Espey
- Outreach & Leadership Development Director: Ali Fowler
- Office Manager & Registrar: Lisa Wray
- Food Service Director: Kynleigh Etter
- Assistant Food Service Director: Cande Ward
- And our dedicated housekeeping, maintenance, & support staff

## Dean, Chaplain, Teacher (D.C.T)

A team of clergy & ministers, who lead and plan chapel, teachings, and support campers and staff week to week. A new team of DCT comes to camp every week.

## Summer Staff

College-aged staff who support campers in a variety of ways through cabin counseling, program areas, and maintaining the beauty and inner workings of camp

- Cabin counselors (half or full summer; one summer staff counselor per cabin)
- Work Crew (half summer)
- Program Staff (full summer - ropes, games, crafts, media, etc.)
- Summer Directors (full summer - work closely with site directors)

## SIT (staff-in-training) & Volunteer Counselors

High school (SIT) and college-age (Volunteer) staff who volunteer to be co-counselors with a summer cabin counselor for a week.

# STAFF-IN-TRAINING (SIT) PROGRAM

***For Rising 11th-12th grade, & High School Graduates:***

- ***SIT Counselors (formerly known as session staff)***
- ***Work Crew (current 12th grade and older only)***

Camp Capers seeks to empower and walk alongside our rising 11th-12th grade students and high school graduates to cultivate their growth through servant leadership skills, goal setting, creativity, mentorships, and community building.

SIT's will be able to reflect on the opportunity to serve and lead youth at camp, while learning more about their own faith and who they are called to be. By the end of the program, we expect participants to not only be prepared to take on servant leadership roles within Summer Staff positions at Camp Capers, but to also be able to utilize these skills to be leaders beyond Capers– in work, school, church, community, and other life endeavors.

| SIT 1 | SIT 2 | SIT 3 |
|---|---|---|
| First time counselor or rising 11th grade | Returning counselor or rising 12th grade | Returning counselor as a high school graduate or work crew |
| **Focus**: defining servant leadership and your role at camp | **Focus**: discovering your leadership skills & personal gifts | **Focus**: leadership outside of camp & preparation beyond camp |

***For more information, see our SIT Program Handbook here.***

# CABINS

Cabin life at Camp Capers is centered around relationships between the campers and staff. Our goal is to ensure campers feel supported in their faith journey, making new friends, and learning new skills during their time at camp.

- Cabins are air-conditioned; fans are recommended, but not required

- 4 triple bunks with 12 twin-sized beds (2 counselors + 10 campers per cabin)
  - Triple bunk beds (top, middle, bottom)
  - Camper bunks will be chosen via a lottery system (pulling sticks, drawing out of a hat, etc., not first come, first pick)

- Storage space
  - Top bunks: approximately two 5 ft x 1.5 ft cubbies
  - Middle bunks: two 3-4 ft x 1.5 ft cubbies
  - Bottom bunks: approximately 1.5 ft tall under bed storage with extra room directly next to bunk
  - There is space along the walls and under windows to place larger items, suitcases, drawers, etc. The assigned bunk space does not need to accommodate camper's luggage, as we will find space in the cabin for the camper's belongings.

- Attached bathroom contains 2 stalls, 2 sinks, and 2 showers
  - Counter and shelf space for camper's toiletries
  - Towel racks for hanging shower towels

- Clothesline outside of each cabin quad for wet swimsuits and towels

# CABINS










# *2027*
# CABIN REQUESTS

## *for first time campers **only***

At Camp Capers, we understand first time campers may feel anxious about their time away from home. Each session cabin assignments are made by Program Staff to best meet the needs of the campers and to assist in making new friends. Our staff take great care in creating a balance of children similar in age, but with a variety of hometowns and camp experience to encourage optimal cabin bonding. Changes to cabin assignments will not be made on Opening Day.

**Requests for ONE cabin mate will be granted to first time campers only, and must be submitted no later than the SUNDAY (1 week) prior to your child's camp session.**

1

Complete the Google Form for your first time camper. Please include the first and last name of the **one** cabin mate they would like to be in the same cabin with.

**Cabin Request Google Form**

2

The requested cabin mate's parent must also complete the form in order for the request to be submitted officially.

3

Our staff will grant requests **only for first time campers** when both parents have completed the form. You will receive your cabin assignment on Opening Day at check in. Changes to cabin assignments will not be made on Opening Day.

If you have any questions or to discuss your camper's specific situation, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Camp Capers office at 830-995-3966.

# Camper **Healthcare**

The health and well-being of our campers, staff, and camp community is our top priority. We work with health care professionals and providers to develop a communicable disease program that helps mitigate the spread of common illnesses at camp along with treatment procedures for potential injuries that can occur at camp.

During summer camp sessions, there is always a health care professional onsite that is responsible for distributing your camper's medication, treating injuries and symptoms of common illnesses, and promoting the overall health and safety of the camp community. Our camp health care professional is typically a licensed vocational nurse, a registered nurse, or someone with similar qualifications.

If your camper becomes ill or suffers an injury at camp, our camp health care staff will notify the camper's parent or guardian of the situation. If care is required beyond the ability of our camp health care staff, an appropriate plan of care will be discussed with the parent or guardian.

If a camper becomes too ill to participate in the life of camp, they will be isolated from the camp community while their symptoms are monitored. If symptoms are severe, worsen, or do not improve over 24 hours, they will be sent home. Camp health care staff will notify parents of any symptoms or illness. This is why we ask parents and guardians (or approved emergency contacts) of campers to be able to come pick up their camper within 8 hours of receiving a call from camp.

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# CAMP IS IN SESSION!

## Check-In

Drive-thru check-in begins at 3:30pm on Opening Day of your camper's session. Please enter camp through the Main Gate. Parents/guardians are welcome to help unload and set up their camper(s) in the cabin. All campers will receive a quick lice-check upon arrival to camp. You will find the assigned check-in time for your camper in an email in the week prior to the camp session you are attending. Please try to be on time for your check-in time. Staff will greet you near the gate and direct you to each check-in station along the camp road.

## Cabin Assignments

**Campers will receive their cabin assignments upon arrival at camp.** Once cabins are assigned, we strive not to make changes in order to give our summer counselors time to prepare and learn about the campers they will be responsible for. You will receive an email with your assigned check-in time.

## Care Packages

Please have care packages labeled with your camper's name, cabin number, and delivery day ready to drop off at the designated station during check-in. Care packages are limited to **2 packages per camper**. Care packages should be **no larger than 12" x 12" x 6" box**. Purchases from the Camp Capers Camp Store do not count towards a camper's 2 care package limit. Cards and letters left for delivery at camp are encouraged and are not considered care packages.

**Please do not include any food, drinks, candy, or gum in care packages.** In order to keep the Texas Hill Country and the animals that call this place home safe, **please do not include glow sticks** in care packages as they can be harmful to the environment. **No food is allowed in the camper cabins to avoid tempting insects and larger critters.**

***REMEMBER***

***Care packages are not imperative to having an impactful camp experience.***

***The opportunity to come to camp is a gift itself.***

# Check Out

Parents/guardians and friends are welcome to attend the closing service in the St. Francis Chapel or down at the amphitheater. The Closing Worship Service will begin at 10:00 AM and the check-out process will begin at 11:00 AM. Please enter camp through the main gate, park at the cabin quad your camper is assigned to for the camp session, and proceed to either the chapel or the amphitheater to sign your camper out.

**A parent, guardian, or other individual listed on the camper's authorized pick-up list will be required to provide a form of photo identification when signing out each camper.**

# Lost & Found

Items misplaced during the session will be located on the Slab in front of the Dining Hall during closing day. Please visit the table by the Bell Tower prior to or after the closing worship service. Clothing, shoes, towels, etc. will be held at the camp for no more than 2 weeks and then will be donated. Please contact the office (camp.capers@dwtx.org; (830) 995-3966) if you have any lost items.

# Early Pick-Up

Please notify the camp office (camp.capers@dwtx.org; 830-995-3966) if you will be picking up your camper prior to the closing worship service at 10:00 AM on Saturday. The checkout process for early pick-ups will be at the Welcome Center prior to loading your camper's belongings at your camper's cabin. This also applies for any early pick-ups due to illnesses.

**A parent, guardian, or other individual listed on the camper's authorized pick-up list will be required to provide a form of photo identification when signing out each camper.**

# Late Drop-Off

Please notify the camp office (camp.capers@dwtx.org; (830) 995-3966) if you will be dropping your camper off later than 6:00 PM on Sunday or on a later day of the camp session. The check-in process for late drop-offs will be at the Welcome Center prior to dropping off your camper's belongings at the cabins.

# Leaving and Coming Back to Camp During a Session

Please notify the camp office (camp.capers@dwtx.org; (830) 995-3966) if you will be picking up your camper during a session and bringing them back the same day or the next day (ex. sports game, family commitment, etc.). Pick-up and drop-off will be at the Welcome Center.

**A parent, guardian, or other individual listed on the camper's authorized pick-up list will be required to provide a form of photo identification when signing out each camper.**

# Pick-Up Authorizations

Please ensure all persons who may need to pick up your camper are added to your camper's Pick Up Authorization on your Ultracamp account. All Pick-Up Authorization should be updated at least 24 hours prior to pick-up in Ultra-Camp. Campers who drive themselves should add their name to their authorization list.

Should circumstances necessitate a last-minute change of designated pick-up person, Camp Capers must receive written instructions to that effect, including the name of the new designated pick-up person. Such notice must include the signature of the original designated pick-up person and can be sent to Camp Capers at camp.capers@dwtx.org.

# Cancellation/Refund Policy

**Camps and Conferences will not be able to issue a refund of the stated non-refundable deposit for the camp session or retreat program.**

***Camp Capers and Mustang Island***

Cancellations must be made 30 days in advance of the beginning date of the camp or retreat session in order to receive a refund less non-refundable deposit. Cancellations less than 30 days from the beginning date, no refund will be issued.

***Duncan Park***

Cancellations must be made 60 days in advance of the beginning date of the camp or retreat session in order to receive a refund less non-refundable deposit. Cancellations less than 60 days from the beginning date, no refund will be issued.

***Camp Capers, Mustang Island and Duncan Park***

Cancellations due to family emergency, medical, or academic reasons prior to the camp or retreat session will be at the discretion of the Camp Staff to receive a full refund less the non-refundable deposit.

Campers sent home for valid medical reasons would receive a prorated refund based on the number of days spent at the camp or program session.

Camps and Conferences of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas reserves the right to cancel a program at any time. In the event of a cancellation, all registrants will receive a refund for any services not yet rendered.

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# CAMPER
# MAIL & COMMUNICATION

## Phone Calls & Visitations

We understand parental anxiety and concerns for their child's well-being while at camp. In the case of any emergency or other concern, either physical or otherwise, you will be notified promptly by phone. Due to the busy, fun-filled activities that are planned for the week, we cannot allow personal phone calls, either incoming or outgoing, or personal visitation during the camp session. For some campers, personal phone calls or visits can provoke homesickness and envy in others.

**Please do not send your camper with a cell phone as they are strictly prohibited.**

**Camp Capers encourages all staff and campers to build relationships at camp without the distractions of technology. This is a very significant and unique part of the camp experience. If electronic items are brought to camp, they will be stored in the office and returned on the last day of camp.**

If a serious concern arises, you may contact the Office Manager to discuss the situation at 830-995-3966. In case of an emergency, please contact Johnson Jeffers, Director of Camp Capers at 864-650-4462, and/or Rob Watson, Director of Camps & Conferences at 210-837-2788.

## Letters

Please mail all cards or letters at least two weeks prior to your camper's session, labeled with the name of the session they're attending, to ensure it will arrive onsite while they are here or drop them off at the Welcome Center on check-in day. To ensure your camper receives their letters and packages, please address them using the following format:

Attn: Camper's Name, Session Name
Camp Capers
P.O. Box 9
Waring, Texas 78074

CAMPER

# MAIL & COMMUNICATION

## One-Way Emails

Mail is an incredible way to show your love for your camper during their camp session, especially those who are away from home for the first time. Once your child arrives at camp, you may email your camper each day, if you like. Emails are checked Monday - Friday at 11:00 AM. It is important to remember not to send emails after 11:00 AM on the last full camp day of the session (Friday; Thursday for Primary Camp sessions).

TO SEND EMAILS:

1. Go to the Ultracamp website and login.
2. Go to the three lines at the top left of the page.
3. Select Message Center & click Email a Camper.

There is NOT a charge for sending emails.

For friends and other family members not listed on your account to email your child, parents must authorize them. If they create an account on their own, they will not be linked to your child's camp registration, and the system won't allow them to send a note. On the main page of your account there is a tab labeled “Friend Accounts”. Select "Add a Friend Account". Follow the instructions to have an email sent with step-by-step directions to the family or friends you would like to be able to send your camper a one-way email.

## Camp Store Purchases

Our camp store is available during the summer time on the opening day during check-in and closing day after worship service of each session. Our store is also available year round online here. We will distribute a flyer prior to your camp session with a preview of our summer camp merchandise for the year.

Items purchased from the camp store do not count towards the 2-care package limit. Campers will not be able to go to the camp store during their camp session. Please do not send money with your camper(s).

CAMPER **PHOTOS**

# Photos

View camper pictures at https://dwtx.smugmug.com/

***All camp photos are password protected. A password will be sent to the primary account holder after your camper's session.***

Our photographer's goal is to upload pictures 2-3 times during the session, starting Tuesday. Any remaining pictures will be uploaded after campers go home and can be accessed from the above site.

Throughout the year, camp photographs will be featured on the Camp Capers social media accounts, and occasionally on the Diocese of West Texas feed. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at @campcapers.





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POST-CAMP

# INFORMATION

## Feedback Form

After leaving camp, please be sure to provide camp feedback by asking your camper(s) how their time was! We are interested and enthusiastic about what our campers and families thoughts are on how we can improve Camp Capers. Please visit the feedback form here. We appreciate you taking time to do this.

## Lost & Found

Clothing, shoes, towels, etc. will be held at Camp Capers for **no more than 2 weeks** and then will be donated. Please contact the office (camp.capers@dwtx.org; 830-995-3966) if you have any lost items.

## Social Media (staff & campers)

Camp staff may not give out their contact information including cell phone number, e-mail, address, or social networking site name or other contact information to a camper without parental consent. We encourage our staff to not engage on the web with campers while employed during summer camp.

Please refer back to our Internet Policy on your Ultracamp account regarding our guidelines for campers and staff.

## Apply for Camp Staff!

Searching for a meaningful, fun, and adventure-filled summer job? Look no further than the summer camp programs at Camp Capers, Mustang Island Conference Center, and Duncan Park. Each camp has a variety of seasonal positions caring for children and youth campers, serving at family camp, leading wilderness adventure trips, and helping the year-round camp staff make this the best summer yet!




# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AT **Camp Capers**

## Mid-Winter Camps

*MW I: January 1-3, 2027, 2nd-5th grade*
*MWII: January 8-10, 2027, 9th-12th grade*
*MWIII: January 15-17, 2027, 6th-8th grade*

Camp happens outside of the summer months, too! Mid-Winter Camp is a weekend (Friday-Sunday) for reuniting with friends from summer camp, making new ones, growing and learning in faith, campfires, outdoor games, singing, worship, and more. Mid-winter camps occur the first three weekends of January.

## Father/Son Retreat

*February 26-28, 2027*

Join us at Camp Capers for this years' retreat for fathers, grandfathers, father-figures, and their sons to share a weekend at Camp Capers, away from the responsibilities of everyday life playing games, doing fun outdoor adventure activities, studying the Bible, and sharing delicious meals. Spend a weekend in the hill country, to focus on strengthening that unique bond fathers and sons share while participating in fun and faith-centered activities.

## Open House

*March 21st, 2027*

Get to know more about Camp Capers' programming, take a tour of camp, meet a few of our staff members, and even a Q&A! Our programs include Summer Camp, Mid-Winter Camp, and Retreats for all ages!




# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AT **Camp Capers**

## Nails & Prayers Service Retreat *April 10-12, 2027*

A special service-oriented weekend for high school juniors & seniors, college students, individuals, and couples designed as an opportunity to give back and beautify Camp Capers. This is a great opportunity for high school students to earn service hours. Enjoy some fun activities in the beautiful Hill Country, and participate in fellowship and worship. Work projects may include grounds clean-up, trail maintenance, stocking firewood, painting, small construction projects, landscaping, and gardening. Projects will vary based on volunteer skills and specific needs around Camp Capers.

## Mother/Daughter Retreat *September 24-19, 2027*

Mothers, daughters and grandmothers of all ages are invited to a weekend at Camp Capers that centers on growing and nurturing that unique and special bond that mothers and daughters have while participating in fun and faith-centered activities such as swimming, high ropes, kayaking, gardening, arts and crafts, hiking, worship services, Bible lessons, and so much more.

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# DIOCESAN
# YOUTH EVENTS

## Happening *(Offered three times annually)*

Happenings are spiritual renewal weekends for older high school students, led by their peers. The diocese sponsors three weekends each year in various locations and has sponsored over 145 weekends to date. Each Happening begins Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. sharp, and wraps up around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. It is a lock-in, so prepare to stay the entire weekend. The Diocese of West Texas hosts three Happenings each year, usually the first weekend of March, the first weekend of August, and the weekend just before Thanksgiving.

Any student in the 10th grade through 12th grade can attend. A small number of adults may also attend. Weekends tend to fill quickly, so don't delay! You will receive detailed information about the weekend via email after you register. The registration cost is $60, and a deposit must be paid to confirm your registration. Even if you have filled out all of your forms, the online system won't notify us until the deposit is processed.

Scholarships for Happening participants and staff are available.

Contact the Happening Board Chair for more information.



# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE **DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS**

## Mustang Island Family Camp

Mustang Island Conference Center is an Episcopal camp and conference center located on the Gulf Coast of Texas in Port Aransas. The conference center's mission is to provide a sacred place for our guests to rest, reflect, and renew their faith, surrounded by God's coastal creation.

It is open year-round and serves all God's children as a ministry of Christian hospitality to religious, educational, and nonprofit organizations.

Spend meaningful time with your family at the beach this summer! At Mustang Island Family Camp your family has the opportunity to unplug, relax, and reconnect with what is most important – family, faith, community, and God's glorious creation.

CAMPS & CONFERENCES
Episcopal Diocese of West Texas




# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE **DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS**

DUNCAN PARK

## Duncan Park

Duncan Park is an Episcopal camp and conference center, owned and operated by the Diocese of West Texas, in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, 20 miles west of Boulder, Colorado. Although many miles from our diocese, Duncan Park is at the heart of the Camps & Conferences Department's mission to provide spaces for people to gather, creating opportunities for people to deepen their faith, experience the love of God in community, and feel empowered to share this grace with their home parishes and neighbors.

Its programs include summer camp sessions for junior high and senior high youth, family camps, and private retreats. Surrounded by the aspen and pine forests of the Colorado Rocky Mountains, campers and guests can find true respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, make new friends, and grow in faith.

For more information about Duncan Park, please visit www.dwtx.org/dpco. If you have any questions regarding summer camp sessions or retreats at Duncan Park, email duncan.park@dwtx.org.