

**BREAKING  
NEWS**

**\* Daily Explorer \***

**SPECIAL  
EDITION**

*EST. 2016*

*A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE*

*SUMMER 2025*



# NEW HORIZONS

*ADVENTURE AWAITS!*

This summer, young explorers will chart a course for adventure in Wild Horizons, an eight-week journey through Earth's most awe-inspiring ecosystems! Inspired by the golden age of aviation and exploration, campers (**ages 7 - 15**) will follow in the footsteps of pioneers like Amelia Earhart and the Wright Brothers, with each week unlocking the secrets of the natural world through thrilling outdoor activities and hands-on learning. Whether it's nature photography, kayaking, mountain biking or one of our other activities, prepare for an unforgettable adventure!

**Scholarships are available for City of Dallas Residents. Apply online March 3 - 15, 2025**

**LOCATION:**

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURES  
AT SAMUELL FARM  
100 US-80, MESQUITE, TX**

**✂ Shuttle available to and from Kidd  
Springs Recreation Center**

**CAMP HOURS:**

**9 AM - 5 PM**

**EARLY DROPOFF :**

**8:30 AM**



**REGISTER HERE**

**REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 31ST @ 9AM CENTRAL STANDARD TIME**

**DALLAS RESIDENTS:**

**\$125/WEEK**

**\* KIDD SPRINGS SHUTTLE:**

**\$30/WEEK**

**NON-RESIDENTS:**

**\$150/WEEK**

**Shuttle Schedule:**

**Pickup: 8:20 AM**

**Drop off: Until 5:30 PM**

**PROUDLY PROVIDED BY**



**Outdoor Adventures**

**and**



**Dallas Park & Recreation**  
*Bringing Communities Together*

**JUNE 9**

**\* THROUGH \***

**THROUGH**

**\* AUGUST 1**

## Mission Statement

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department's mission is to champion lifelong recreation and serve as responsible stewards of the city's parks, trails, and open spaces.

## Vision

With that mission in mind, the Department's vision for the future is for a comprehensive system of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation facilities that sustains, inspires, and invigorates.

## The 3 Pillars of NRPA

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department (DPARD) believes in aligning with the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) and impacting communities through conservation, health and wellness and social equity programs and opportunities.

- **Equity** - Dallas Park and Recreation Department provides universal access to public parks and recreation programs. Our team works hard to ensure that the members of the communities we serve have access to the resources and programs available.
- **Environmental Resilience** – Dallas Park and Recreation Department provides universal access to public parks and recreation programs. Our team works hard to ensure that the members of the communities we serve have access to the resources and programs available.
- **Health and Well-Being** - Dallas Park and Recreation Department provides a variety of programs and services to assist in living a healthier lifestyle and combat our country's challenges of poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity.

## Welcome Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians, this is your captain speaking!

Fasten your seatbelts and prepare for takeoff—**an unforgettable summer of adventure awaits**. This year, we're setting our sights on **Wild Horizons**, a high-flying expedition inspired by the **golden age of aviation and exploration**. Just like the fearless pioneers **Amelia Earhart and the Wright Brothers**, our campers will chart new territory, discover the wonders of the natural world, and develop the courage to explore beyond the horizon!

Each week, we'll venture into a different ecosystem, from **the towering forests to the depths of the ocean**, experiencing firsthand the challenges and beauty of each environment. Whether **mountain biking through prairies, kayaking across open waters, or learning survival skills in the forest**, campers will gain the knowledge and confidence to navigate the great outdoors.

But this camp is about more than just exploration—it's about **connection, discovery, and adventure**. Your child will build friendships, develop new skills, and come home with **stories of thrilling expeditions, hands-on learning, and the joy of the great outdoors**. Expect plenty of **mud, laughter, and wide-eyed wonder** as they embark on this journey of a lifetime!

So, pack your sense of adventure and get ready to soar—because **Wild Horizons is calling!**

Welcome to the 2025 Summer Adventure Camp!

Adventure awaits,

Spencer Pearson, Supervisor – Outdoor Adventures

## General Overview

### Site Information

Samuell Farm Camp

214-671-CAMP

100 US-80, Mesquite, TX 75149

### Contact Information:

You may contact us any time during camp hours at the following numbers. Voicemails left during non-camp hours will be checked only during camp hours.

Spencer Pearson, Program Supervisor:

214-671-0421

[Spencer.Pearson@dallas.gov](mailto:Spencer.Pearson@dallas.gov)

Michael Nelms, Program Coordinator:

214-232-8494

[Michael.nelms@dallas.gov](mailto:Michael.nelms@dallas.gov)

### Camp Hours:

Adventure Camp is Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. You may drop your child off daily between 8:30 am – 9:00 am. Your child needs to be picked up **no later than 5:00 pm.** Please let us know if your child will be coming at an alternative time. \*\*There is not camp on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> (Juneteenth holiday) and Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> (July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday).

### Camp Dates:

- June 9-13
- June 16-20 (Thursday off for Juneteenth holiday)
- June 23-27 (Overnight Camping Trip June 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>)
- June 30- July 4 (Friday off for 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday)
- July 7-11
- July 14-18
- July 21-25
- July 28- Aug 1

### Camp Age Requirements:

Adventure Camp is for ages 7-15 years old. Children will be broken into groups based on ages. The camper must be 7 years old prior to their first day at camp and proof of a birth certificate may be requested. Counselor in Training programs are available for children 16 & 17 years old.

### Registration:

Registration is open on a first-come, first-serve basis. Online and in-person registration at Samuell Farm is available at [www.dallasparks.org/571/Outdoor-Adventure-Camp](http://www.dallasparks.org/571/Outdoor-Adventure-Camp) beginning March 31, 2025 at 9:00 am CST. Parents are required to fill out registration packets prior to the first day of camp.

You can pay by cash or credit card at Samuell Farm. If you register online, payment must be by credit card. Payment must be received prior to the child attending adventure camp.

The cost for camp is \$125/week for Dallas residents and \$150/week for non-residents.

To properly prepare for the next week, online camp registration closes on **Fridays at 3:00 pm** for the following week. In-person registration can be done at any time as long as space is available.

### What to Bring:

Please label all belongings and send your child daily with the following:

- \*Brown bag lunch – no refrigerator or microwave
- Backpack
- Closed-toe shoes/spare pair of socks
- Hat
- Insect repellent
- Refillable water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Snack for each day
- Water shoes on kayaking days
- Tie-dye Outdoor Adventure T-Shirt on field trip days
- Towel if recently rained (Child may be muddy) or having water day/swimming
- Swimsuit, sandals, and change of clothes for water day/swimming

\*Free lunch and breakfast are available every day through the federal free lunch program. If your child would prefer something different, please send them with their own lunch.

### Group Assignments:

Campers are assigned groups based upon age determined on the first day of each week of camp. Each group will have a designated counselor assigned to them throughout the duration of the week. The counselor to group ratio is 1:10.

### Camp Staff:

The people we hire are enthusiastic, supportive, and committed to positively impacting the lives of our youth. The City of Dallas requires all staff to submit to extensive background checks as well as drug and alcohol testing before being accepted for employment. Staff receive additional training and certifications on adventure camp activities.

## Adventures:

- Archery: Let's aim for a bullseye! Learn the fundamentals of archery and play a variety of shooting games.
- Arts and crafts
- Fishing: Learn the fundamentals of fishing including tying knots, casting and hopefully reeling in the big one!
- Geocaching: It's a modern-day treasure hunt using GPS devices to find hidden caches around the farm.
- Kayaking: Learn paddling techniques and play games on the water!
- Mountain Biking: Learn the fundamentals of mountain biking and enjoy the gravel travel around Samuell Farm.
- Nature photography: Learn the techniques to capture the beautiful images of nature on a camera.
- Sports and games: A variety of traditional sports and camp games including Capture the Flag, scavenger hunts and more.
- Survival skills: Groups will learn survival skills including building a campfire, tying knots, and building a shelter or setting up a tent.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

This summer, young explorers will chart a course for adventure in Wild Horizons, an eight-week journey through Earth's most awe-inspiring ecosystems! Inspired by the golden age of aviation and exploration, campers will follow in the footsteps of pioneers like Amelia Earhart and the Wright Brothers, unlocking the secrets of the natural world through thrilling outdoor activities and hands-on learning.

Each week, a new frontier awaits, from the towering forests of Post Oak Preserve to the vast ocean depths that includes an excursion to Bolder Adventure Park. Whether mountain biking through savannah trails, kayaking in open waters, or mastering survival skills in the "rainforest," campers will gain the confidence and knowledge to tame the wild and explore the unknown. 

Week	Weekly Focus	Grand Adventure Road Trip***	Virtual Road Trip	Additional Notes What to bring on field trip?
 1 6/9-13	<b>Forests</b> Mountain Biking, Nature Photography, Survival Skills	<b>Post Oak Preserve</b> 6/12/25	Great Smokey Mountains	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch
<b>2</b> 6/16-20	<b>Coral Reefs</b> Fishing, Archery, Kayaking	<b>Dallas World Aquarium</b> 6/18/25	Great Barrier Reef	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle, money for gift shop and Lunch
<b>3</b> 6/23-27	<b>Rainforests</b> Geocaching, Survival Skills, Nature Photography	<b>Overnight Camping Trip @ Lake Tawakoni State Park</b> 6/26/25 - 6/27/25	Amazon Rainforest	Meal Prep supplies, Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle, Backpack, Overnight Supplies, Clothes, Water Clothes, and Snacks
<b>4</b> 6/30-7/4	<b>Savannah</b> Mountain Biking, Survival Skills, Outdoor Education	<b>Dallas Zoo</b> 7/3/25	Serengeti National Park	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle, money for gift shop and Lunch
<b>5</b> 7/7-11	<b>Lakefront</b> Mountain Biking, Fishing, Outdoor Education	<b>Trinity River Audubon</b> 7/9/25	Great Lakes	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch
<b>6</b> 7/14-18	<b>Desert</b> Mountain Biking, Archery, Survival Skills	<b>Heard Natural Science Museum</b> 7/17/25	Sahara Desert	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch
<b>7</b> 7/21-25	<b>Ocean</b> Kayaking, Fishing, Outdoor Education	<b>Bolder Adventure Park</b> 7/24/25	Pacific Ocean	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch
<b>8</b> 7/28-8/1	<b>Plains and Prairies</b> Archery, Geocaching, Nature Photography	<b>In-Sync Exotics</b> 7/31/25	Blackland Prairies	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch

\*\*\*Field trip dates and locations are subject to change based on availability and other logistical factors.

### Field Trips

This year, we will be taking field trips to multiple locations across the metroplex. Field trips are a privilege and children who have had prior disciplinary issues may not be able to attend per Manager discretion and parents will need to make alternative arrangements during field trip times. The bus is not able to wait for children arriving late so please ensure your child is prepared and ready on time. There will not be care provided at Samuell Farm while the campers are away on a field trip.

### Tie-dye T-shirts

All campers will receive Outdoor Adventure shirts on their first Monday of camp to tie-dye. The shirts will be sent home on Monday with instructions on how to wash. Campers should wear the shirts on field trip days. Only one shirt per camper for the duration of the summer will be provided. There is a \$10 fee for replacement shirts. **Please have your child wear old clothes their first Monday of camp in the event they get dye on their clothing.**

### Closing Ceremony - Fridays at 4:00 pm

Parents are invited to attend the weekly closing ceremony on Fridays at 4:00 pm. We will present weekly awards. Bring your camp chairs!

### Late pick-up Policy:

We ask that you respect our staff's time by picking up your child by 5:00 pm. **Late pickup is considered at 5:01 pm or later.** Three late pickups throughout the duration of the summer will result in discontinued enrollment for the camper. Please plan for traffic and travel time as this is a firm pickup time.

### Inclement Weather:

The camp is 100% outdoors during normal weather. In the event of inclement weather, the campers will utilize the Welcome Center building. Light rain without the threat of lightning will not affect outdoor activities. Please consider bringing a towel in your car for days that your child may be going home wet or muddy due to weather.

### Sick Protocols:

All parents should check their child for symptoms of sickness prior to camp. Children should not come to camp exhibiting any signs of sickness. Regular handwashing and sanitizing will be encouraged throughout the day.

### Hydration/Heat Exposure:

We know this is summertime in Texas! For this reason, campers will continuously be encouraged to drink fluids. Ice water and Gatorade stations will be provided throughout the camp. Campers will be closely monitored for heat exposure and will receive plenty of breaks throughout the day to prevent heat exhaustion. **Bringing a refillable water bottle every day is very important.**

### Designated Pickup:

Due to safety reasons, only the approved listed names on the registration form can pick up the camper. Parents may contact the staff via email and provide the staff with additional names and IDs to add to the designated pickup list.

### Transportation Shuttle –

A 15-passenger shuttle will run to and from Samuell Farm from Dallas each day. The cost is \$30/week and space is extremely limited. The shuttle schedule is as follows:

#### PICKUP

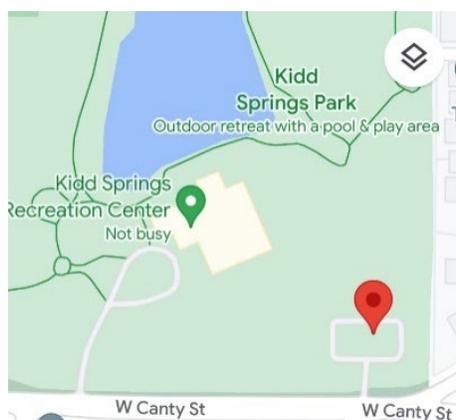
8:30 am – Kidd Springs Recreation Center (711 W. Canty)

9:00 am – Arrival to Samuell Farm

4:45 pm – Departure from Samuell Farm

5:30 pm: Drop off at Kidd Springs

\*Kidd Springs shuttle pickup location: Please pickup in the East lot noted by the red pickup location below:



Parents who do not pick their child up on time from the shuttle will result in a late pick-up (see late pick-up policy above).

### Refund Policy/Medical Refunds:

Requests for refunds must be made with at least 5 business days prior to the start of the week requesting to be refunded. In the event of cancellation due to medical reasons, where 5 business days cannot be provided, a medical note is required.

### Discipline Policy:

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department follows a progressive discipline policy. Campers will first receive a warning, followed by a parent meeting and ultimately resulting in dismissal from the program. The manager has the discretion to advance through the progressive steps due to the severity of the infraction.

Children with more than three behavior writeups throughout the duration of the summer camp will not be eligible to attend the Dinosaur Valley Camping Trip. Refunds will not be given.

### Electronic Devices and Cell Phones:

We achieve our results by providing a safe, focused and engaging environment, free of unnecessary distractions for the campers. **For this reason, all audio/visual devices such as music players, headphones, iPods, cell phones, tablets, etc. should be left at home or must remain in the child's backpack.** DPARD staff is not responsible for any electronics brought to camp.

### Parent Volunteers/Chaperones

We welcome parent volunteers and chaperones. A background check and registration are required prior to volunteering or chaperoning. To ensure anyone involved in our programming is a good steward of the outdoors, we also require any volunteers complete a brief training module made by the Leave No Trace organization (link and resources will be provided after any interest in volunteering is expressed). Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

### Safety

Safety is our first priority at Adventure Camp. However, we realize and acknowledge many of our activities carry inherent risks and we make every effort to provide a safe experience for all our campers. Campers who are not able to follow directions and pose a risk to themselves and other campers may be removed from the activity.

To mitigate risks, our campers are provided with personal flotation devices for kayaking and helmets for mountain biking. Wearing these items is mandatory. All activities offer a fundamental skills portion to ensure the child is ready for the activity.

Our staff leading the activities possess the following certifications/trainings:

- American Canoe Association: Certified Kayak Guide Level 1
- Angler Education from Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Basic Survival Training from Texas Survival School
- Bicycle Instructor Program: Level 1 Mountain Bike Guide or certified Ride Leader
- CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid/AED for adult, infant and youth
- Master Outdoor Leadership Training from Texas Parks and Wildlife
- NASP Archery: Level 1 and Level 2 Instructor Certification
- Emergency Care and Safety Institute: Wilderness First Aid

**Camp Pictures and Information:**

Please follow us on our Dallas Park and Recreation Outdoor Adventures Facebook group page!

