

Outdoor Adventures

THIS SUMMER, THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES PROGRAM INVITES YOU TO

LEVEL UP

Every week is a new world with a new set of challenges this Summer at Samuell Farm! Are you ready for the challenge? Level Up your outdoor skills with new skills to learn and achievements every week!

JUNE 8TH - JULY 31ST 2026

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

AGES 7 - 15

\$125 for Residents /week

\$150 for Non-Residents /week

Shuttle Available from Kidd Springs!

\$30/week

Dropoff at 8:30 Pickup at 5:30

REGISTRATION OPENS
MARCH 30TH @ 9 AM CST

If you're looking to mix things up, check out the NEW Exploration Camp at City Park and experience a different kind of outdoor fun.

For inquiries, email citypark@dallas.gov

Sign Up Here!



OR go to bit.ly/OAprograms



Dallas Park and Recreation

Mission

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

Welcome to the 2026 Summer Adventure Camp: Level Up!

Dear Parents,

Press Start - **Summer adventure is loading!**

This year's theme is **Level Up**, inspired by the spirit of games and exploration, this summer is all about **growth, challenge, and unlocking new skills**. Throughout the summer, campers will explore exciting places, try new activities, and build real outdoor skills.

Whether **casting a line, hitting the trail on a mountain bike, drawing a bow in archery, or paddling a kayak**, each experience helps campers gain confidence and discover what they're capable of.

New this year, campers can earn **Level 1 Certifications** in our core activities. These certifications recognize that campers have learned the fundamentals safely and responsibly - and they unlock opportunities for **more advanced adventures** in the future. If your camper can earn all Level 1 Certifications, they get the distinction and recognition of being a Level 1 Outdoor Adventurer!

Of course, camp is about more than skills. It's about **friendships, curiosity, and the joy of exploring the outdoors**. By the end of the summer, campers won't just have great stories - they'll have **new abilities, new confidence, and a few "levels" gained along the way**.

So grab your gear and get ready.

Adventure awaits... It's time to Level Up!

Welcome to **Outdoor Adventures Summer Adventure Camp 2026**.

The Outdoor Adventures Team

Dallas Park & Recreation – Outdoor Adventures Program

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

Michael Nelms, Program Coordinator:

214-671-2267

Michael.nelms@dallas.gov

Camp Hours:

Adventure Camp is Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

You asked, and we listened- and for the first time, we are offering an early drop off program. You MUST register your child for the program, and the cost is \$10 per week per camper.

If you have registered your child for the week’s early drop off program, you may drop your child off daily starting at 8:30 am. If you did not register for early drop off, the earliest you can drop off your child is 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 Friday, June 19th (Juneteenth holiday) and Friday, July 3rd (July 4th holiday).

Camp Dates:

- June 8-12
- June 15-18 (Friday off for Juneteenth holiday)
- June 22-26
- June 29- July 2 (Friday off for 4th of July holiday)
- July 6-10
- July 13-17
- July 20-24
- July 27-31

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 beginning March 30, 2026 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

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.

Meet the team!

Spencer Pearson – Program Supervisor

Michael Nelms – Program Coordinator

Hello everybody, I am an avid nature explorer. I go camping with family very regularly and love to show others the same joy that I get from the outdoors. I am very knowledgeable on all the activities done in the program and am always open to questions. My favorite things to teach are Archery and Geocaching. Also, I am a huge history and mythology nerd. So, feel free to ask me about those as well.

Angie Eudy – Program Specialist

I'm a Native Texan and country girl at heart who enjoys spending time outdoors and in nature where I can use all my senses. My favorite outdoor activities are cooking over a flame and camping. Fun fact: I once lived in a handmade log lean-to and slept two weeks under the stars!

Favorite food: Chicken fried steak

Tanner Townsend – Counselor and Year-round Recreation Center Assistant

I attend A&M University – Commerce and achieved a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and Sport Studies. As a result, I am in full support of this program & its mission to teach others ways to be active outdoors rather than just sports.

Nowadays, some of the activities I personally gravitate towards are running, rock climbing, camping, any watersport, and mountain biking.

Ben Meis – Counselor and Year-round Recreation Center Assistant

Hi, I'm Ben! Ever since I was in Boy Scouts, I've loved the outdoors and all the camping, biking, and backpacking, and everything else that comes with it. I am excited to help create new outdoor experiences for others!

Katelynn Lane – Counselor and Year-round Recreation Center Assistant

Jaqueline Arriaga – Counselor and Year-round Recreation Center Assistant

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	Level of the Week	Grand Adventure Road Trip***	Main Activities	Additional Notes What to bring on field trip?
1 6/8-12	Hub Level	Log Cabin Village 6/11/26	Kayaking, Archery, Fishing	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch
2 6/15-19	Creative Level	Texas Zoofari 6/18/26	Nature Photography, Mountain Biking, Kayaking	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle, money for gift shop, Lunch and Snacks
3 6/22-26	Open World Level	Athens Hatcheries 6/25/26	Nature Photography, Survival Skills, Fishing, Mountain Biking	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle, Backpack, Lunch and Snacks
4 6/29-7/2	Maze Level	Dallas Zoo 7/2/26	Geocaching, Nature Photography, Archery, Mountain Biking	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle, money for gift shop and Lunch

5 7/6-10	Secret Level	Overnight Camping @ Samuell Farm 7/9/26 - 7/10/26	Survival Skills, Fishing, Geocaching, Camping	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch, Overnight Supplies, Clothes, Snacks and Backpack
6 7/13-17	Perfection Level	In-Sync 7/16/26	Archery, Nature Photography, Fishing, Kayaking	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch
7 7/20-24	Time Trial Level	Trinity River Audubon 7/23/26	Mountain Biking, Geocaching, Survival Skills	Hiking Shoes, Water Bottle and Lunch
8 7/27-31	 Boss Level	Bolder Adventure Park 7/30/26	Kayaking, Archery, Geocaching, Survival Skills	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.

Incident 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

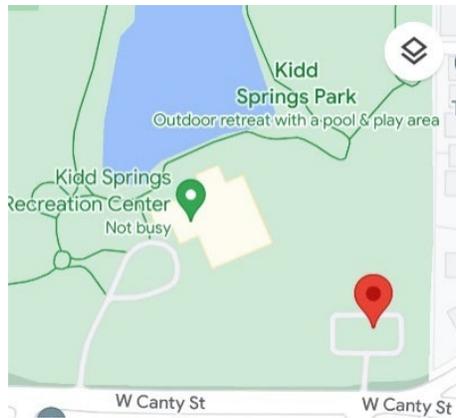
8:30 am – Kidd Springs Recreation Center (711 W. Canty)

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/1st 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!

