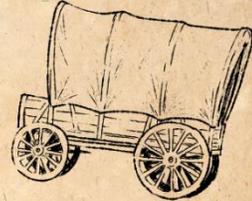


# City Park

## EXPLORATION CAMP



# TIME TRAVELERS



**THIS SUMMER, PAST AND PRESENT COLLIDE**

Step back in time and unlock the past at City Park! Campers will travel through Texas history from 1840–1910, exploring real historic buildings, learning pioneer survival skills, and discover how early Texas communities thrived.

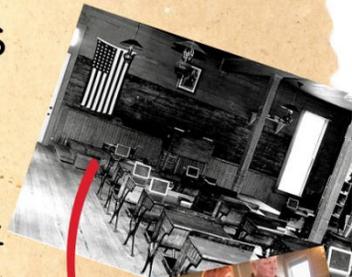
**JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2026**

**9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**AGES 7 - 15**

**\$125 FOR RESIDENTS /WEEK**

**\$150 FOR NON-RESIDENTS /WEEK**



**REGISTRATION OPENS  
MARCH 30TH @ 9 AM  
CST**



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



**972-482-3055**

**CITYPARK@DALLAS.GOV**

**1515 S. HARWOOD ST. DALLAS, TX 75215**



## Dallas Park and Recreation

### Mission

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.

- **Conservation** – Dallas Park and Recreation Department has a critical role in preserving natural resources that have real economic benefits for communities by connecting communities to nature and providing education and programming that helps communities engage in conservation practices.
- **Health and Wellness** - Dallas Park and Recreation Department provides a variety of programs and services to assist in living a healthier lifestyle and combat our countries challenges of poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity.
- **Social 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.

## Welcome Letter

Hello Parents and Guardians!

When it's summertime in Texas, you know what that means—it's time to get outdoors and explore! This year, past and present collide as we transform Dallas's oldest park into a gateway for our young **Time Travelers**.

### **Our Journey: 1840 – 1910**

We are thrilled to welcome your campers to a summer where they will step back in time and unlock the past. Our "Time Travelers" theme takes a historic turn as we explore the real foundations of our community and the environment that helped shape it:

- **Living History:** Campers will travel through Texas history from 1840 to 1910, exploring real historic buildings and furnishings.
- **Pioneer Skills:** We'll learn essential skills used by early Texans and discover how their communities thrived.
- **Nature Connections:** Each week, we'll continue to learn about the close connection with nature and innovation of Texas Communities, connecting our local history to the broader American landscape and environment.

### **Values and Pillars**

Our program is built on City Park's four pillars: **History, Nature, Arts, and Wellness**. Beyond the adventure, we aim to instill a deep love for nature and a respect for everyone and everything—from the historic landmarks to the smallest creatures in our 22.1-acre sanctuary. We'll play hard, create new traditions, and we definitely won't worry about getting dirty!

Welcome to the 2026 Summer Exploration Camp!

Sincerely,

Nancy Escobar, Program Coordinator- City Park

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[General Overview](#)

[Site Information](#)

City Park Exploration Camp

972-482-3055

1515 S. Harwood St. Dallas, TX 75215

**Contact Information:**

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

City Park Number: 972-482-3055

Betty Swinners, Supervisor

[Betty.swinners@dallas.gov](mailto:Betty.swinners@dallas.gov)

Nancy Escobar, Program Coordinator:

[Nancy.escobar@dallas.gov](mailto:Nancy.escobar@dallas.gov)

**Camp Hours:**

Exploration 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 Friday 6/19 (Juneteenth holiday) and Friday 7/3 (July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday).

**Camp Dates:**

- Week 1 : 6/8 - 6/12
- Week 2 : 6/15 - 6/18 (*no camp Friday 6/19*)
- Week 3: 6/22 - 6/26
- Week 4: 6/29 - 7/2 (*no camp Friday 7/3*)
- Week 5 : 7/6 - 7/10
- Week 6: 7/13 - 7/17
- Week 7: 7/20 - 7/24
- Week 8: 7/27 - 7/31

**Camp Age Requirements:**

Exploration 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.

### Registration:

Registration is open on a first-come, first-serve basis. Online registration is available at <https://txdallasweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/search.html?Module=AR&Location=MA3OP>

beginning 9 am CST on March 30th, 2026. Parents may also choose to register for exploration camp at any Dallas Park and Recreation Rec Center. Parents are required to fill out registration packets prior to the first day of camp.

You can pay by credit card at City Park, Kidds Springs, or Samuel Farm. If you register online, payment must be by credit card. We currently do not accept cash payments onsite at City Park. Payment must be received prior to the child attending exploration 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 belongs and send your child daily with the following:

- **\*Brown bag lunch – no refrigerator or microwave, food must be ready to eat.**
- Backpack
- Closed-toe shoes/spare pair of socks
- Hat
- Insect repellent
- **Refillable water bottle**
- Sunscreen
- Snack for each day
- Red Exploration Camp T-Shirt on field trip days

### Group Assignments:

Camperers 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 exploration camp activities.

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Each week's activities will focus on a different time period making your camper more knowledgeable about the social and architecture history of Texas. Day by day your camper will build from what they have learned so far-- exploring more than just the basics.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Weekly Focus</b>	<b>Field Trip</b>
<b>1</b> 6/8-12	Pioneer Level	Log Cabin Village 6/11/26
<b>2</b> 6/15-19	Farm & Field Level	Texas Zoofari 6/18/26
<b>3</b> 6/22-26	Town Builder Level	JJ Craft/Fair Park 6/25/26
<b>4</b> 6/29- 7/2	Innovation Level	Dallas Zoo 7/2/26
<b>5</b> 7/6-10	Victorian Level	Frontiers of Flight 7/9/26
<b>6</b> 7/13-17	Transportation Level	In-Sync 7/16/26
<b>7</b> 7/20-24	Communities of Texas Level	Trinity River Audubon Center 7/23/26
<b>8</b> 7/27-31	Historical Legacy Level	Bolder Adventure Park 7/30/26

### 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 City Park while the campers are away on a field trip. **\*Field trips are subject to change.\***

### Field Trip T-shirts

All campers will receive Exploration Camp shirts on their first Monday of camp. 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.

### 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 prior to closing out camp. 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 a mix of indoor/outdoor activities during normal weather. In the event of inclement weather, the campers will utilize the Pavillion/Browder Hall 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 are able to 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.

#### 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.

#### Electronic Devices and Cell Phones:

We are able to 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. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

#### Safety

Safety is our first priority at Exploration Camp. We realize many of our activities carry 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.

Our staff leading activities possess a CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid/AED for adult, infant and youth.

Camp Pictures and Information:

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

