

SKY RANCH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

PARENT LETTER

SERIOUSLY LEARNING

Dear Parent,

The administrators at your child's school have made a thorough search for the highest quality off-site school program at the elementary grade level, and they have selected the Outdoor Education Program at Sky Ranch. Sky Ranch is located near Van, TX, an hour and a half east from Dallas. It has been in operation for over 60 years and enjoys the reputation of being one of Texas' finest summer youth camps, serving over 7,000 children each season. Sky Ranch has been a long-trusted name in quality programming for children.

The Outdoor Education program follows the same excellent tradition. The curriculum and staff are outstanding, and you can feel secure about your child's participation in this enriching opportunity. The purpose of this program is to serve as an extension of the classroom, delivering educational content in alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Students will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities which will develop their awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the outdoor environment. An overview of the Outdoor Education program can be found at <http://skyranch.org/outdoor-education>.

This packet contains information you will want to know for your child's trip to Sky Ranch. It includes:

- Packing list
- FAQ's and Emergency Numbers
- Sample Schedule
- Participant Agreement Form

Your child's school is providing adult chaperones who will assist students throughout the day and provide supervision during the non-instructional times.

The Sky Ranch instructional staff is trained in basic first aid. However, the school will be responsible for administering any necessary medications.

If you have any questions regarding your child's trip to Sky Ranch, feel free to call the Sky Ranch toll-free number at 1-800-962-2267 or 903-266-3300 and ask for the School Programs Department. You can also reach the team via email at schoolprograms@skyranch.org.

Sincerely,

The School Programs Department

SKY RANCH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

PARENT FAQ

SERIOUSLY **FUN** LEARNING

Will there be a nurse present during my child's stay at Sky Ranch?

To assure students have immediate medical care available while they are here, each school is contracted and responsible for bringing a nurse or other first aid-trained individual. Should a guest need additional medical treatment, the schools are given directions to nearby medical facilities. For additional questions regarding medical needs of students, please contact your school lead, or you may contact Chrisleigh Heller at chrish@skyranch.org.

How will my student get his or her medication?

All medicine will be turned into the school and administered by the school nurse who should be in attendance of the trip. For further questions regarding student medication, please contact your school lead.

What if my student has specific dietary needs?

To access and submit a dietary needs request form, please visit our website at <https://skyranch.org/pages/special-dietary-needs-form>

At Sky Ranch, our food service team prepares three primary meals per day during your stay. We are aware that there are many different and distinct dietary needs. We strive to accommodate all requests within reason. Insomuch as we routinely check our foods for allergens and even with the highest degree of diligence, there is still a small chance that food prepared for special diets may come in contact with restricted ingredients. We are accustomed to dealing with dietary needs such as: gluten, dairy, tree nut, and peanut allergies, diabetic, vegetarian, and vegan diets, as well as many other less common requests.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at

Is Sky Ranch a peanut free facility?

While Sky Ranch is not peanut free, we have limited the number of peanut products in our food. Menu alternatives can be provided in the case of severe food allergies. For further questions regarding allergies and food safety, please contact us at

Will my student need to spend money while at camp? If so, how much should I send with them?

If the school chooses to select it as a part of their recreational time schedule, students will have the option to enter the Sky Café or Sky Ranch Corner Store. Items sold in these places range from traditional convenient store snacks and milkshakes to basic souvenirs such as post cards, stickers, or t-shirts. We recommend students bring anywhere starting from \$5-\$10 cash if they would like to take advantage of this time. Please refer to your school's lead teacher to find out if student's will have access to these places.

What is Sky Ranch's safety policy?

Since 1955, Sky Ranch staff members have been trained to apply a consistent set of priorities to everything we do. We believe in the practice of "Safety First" so we make safety a part of our culture. Everything starts here.

Our safety covers staff hiring, emergency procedures, abuse prevention, activity safety, food safety, facilities, security, health care, and training for leading and working with guests.

For more information on Sky Ranch's safety policy, you can visit the website at <https://skyranch.org/pages/safety#school-programs>

What happens in the case of bad weather?

In the case of light rain and colder temperatures, we will continue to hold classes outdoors; however, in the case of inclement weather, all classes and rec time hours will be held indoors. The Sky Ranch leadership team will be tracking and aware of all potential threatening weather conditions and can ensure you they are making a plan that will be communicated to the school's lead teacher and administration. In the case of bad weather, Sky Ranch has several safe areas for schools to take cover in, along with radio communication available in every cabin in the case something was to come into effect during night time hours.

Does Sky Ranch teach religious content?

The Sky Ranch School Programs department exists to support the educational development of all students from our partner schools. Sky Ranch's Outdoor Education programming serves as an extension of our partner schools and their selected educational curriculum. The instructional content is all in alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills; therefore, religious content is not incorporated into the trip.

What are the cabin accommodations?

While visiting Sky Ranch, your school will be assigned a set of cabins to appropriately accommodate the specific number of students coming to camp. Cabin assignments will be created and communicated to your students by the school. All room assignments will be gender specific, and based on the Sky Ranch recommended ration, will have a set number of adult chaperones staying in the cabin as well.

All cabins are complete with heating, air conditioning, and fully functioning restrooms.

What should my student pack for their Outdoor Education trip?

For more information on packing, please reference the packing list included in the packet. Or you can visit the website:

<https://skyranch.org/media/W1siZiIsIjIwMTg0MDIvMjAvMWhvejM2dW9leF9QYWNRaW5nX0xpc3QucGRml1d/Packing%20List.pdf>

Will I be able to contact my child in case there is an emergency? How?

Yes, in the case of emergency, you may contact the Sky Ranch and we will help get you in contact with the lead teacher of your child's school. When you call, please be ready to provide us with your name, your student's name, and the name of the school they are attending camp with.

Sky Ranch Security phone: 903-352-0916

Sky Ranch Guest Services: 903-266-5010

Chrisleigh Heller, Director of School Programs: 903-266-3360

PACKING LIST

We recommend that students bring comfortable, older clothes as they will spend much of their time exploring outdoors, hiking, and potentially sitting on the ground. Be sure to pack rain wear and warm coats for the cold nights and mornings, as the students will be outdoors. We always hope for good weather, but during light rain showers and cold weather, we will continue to hold class outside as long as there is no lightning, strong wind, or freezing weather.

PLEASE BE SURE TO PACK:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Closed toed shoes | • Blue jeans/long pants | • Flashlight |
| • Sleeping bag OR sheets and a blanket | • Toothbrush, toothpaste | • LABEL EVERYTHING! |
| • Pillow and pillow case | • Shorts (if the weather is warm) | |
| • Towel, hand-towel, and wash cloth | • Soap | |
| • Raincoat or rain poncho | • T-shirts or tops | |
| • Pajamas | • Underwear | |
| • Brush, comb (other hair care products) | • Fleece hat | |

FOR CLASS TIME:

- Water Bottle
- Notebook
- Pencil or pen

PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

Jewelry, CD players, iPods, MP3 players, game systems, cell phones (reception is very poor), or anything that breaks easily or would cause loss if misplaced. Sky Ranch is not responsible for lost or broken articles.



SKY RANCH
TEXAS COLORADO OKLAHOMA

SKY RANCH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

CHAPERONE FAQs

SERIOUSLY LEARNING

What is my role as a chaperone?

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve as a chaperone for your school! Your role is vital for the safety and execution of the school's experience. Your number one priority as a chaperone is the safety and supervision of the students attending. This will primarily occur in the following places:

- Cabins—As a chaperone, your school leadership will assign you a student cabin to stay in for the trip. The number of chaperones staying in the cabin will be based on the recommended Sky Ranch adult to student ratio along with any requirements of the school. As the main source of adult supervision, you will be responsible of making sure all Sky Ranch and school specific rules are abided by while in the cabin.
- Class time—Each school will be scheduled designated class time throughout the day. While this time will be led by Sky Ranch's very own teaching professionals, we ask that chaperones be present during this time to help in the management of the students.
- Dining Hall—During meals, chaperones will be asked to spread out and sit amongst students. Each school will be directed by Sky Ranch staff to a set of tables assigned to your school. Your help will be needed in making sure students are sitting at the designated tables and that they are abiding by the Sky Ranch dining hall rules.
- Rec Time/Night Events—In the afternoon, your school will be assigned different rec time activities to participate in. We ask that chaperones be present during this time to make sure students are at the correct activities and abiding by Sky Ranch safety rules and regulations. Your role will also be to ensure students are practicing the buddy system and not returning to cabins by themselves.

*Please communicate with your school as they often have their own set of expectations and responsibilities when it comes to the role of you as a chaperone.

Where will I be staying? What are the cabin accommodations?

For your stay at Sky Ranch, you will be assigned by the school a cabin to stay in with students. Sky Ranch requires at least one adult to be present in every cabin with students at all times. All cabins are complete with heating, air conditions, and fully functioning restrooms.

What do I need to pack?

You will find a chaperone specific packing list included in this packet. For a list of what students should bring, you can visit our website at:

<https://skyranch.org/media/W1siZiIsIjIwMTg0MDIvMjAvMWhvejM2dW9leF9QYWNRaW5nX0xpc3QucGRmIl1d/Packing%20List.pdf>

