



SAFETY INFORMATION

The same organizational objectives for 60 years

Since 1955, Sky Ranch staff members have been trained to apply a consistent set of priorities to everything we do.

1. **Safety First:** The job of every staff member is to first create an environment that manages the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of a child. Everything starts here.
2. **Fun for Life:** Once we have provided for the health and welfare of a child, we want to create a memorable experience that will last a lifetime. We want to enhance the joy in their life in fresh, creative, wholesome, kid-friendly ways.
3. **Growth:** A camper's growth is at the core of the mission of Sky Ranch. However, we understand that if a child is not safe or enjoying their experience, we lose the opportunity to invest in their character and education.

Highly Qualified, Well Trained, Carefully Selected Staff

Sky Ranch is committed to providing the highest quality Outdoor Education staff in the industry. The level of staffing we provide greatly exceeds industry norms. Our instructional staff are full-time members with college degrees. Through a collaboration with Dallas Baptist University, our instructional staff are also improving their qualifications by earning a graduate degree while working at Sky Ranch.

The selection process for our staff is extensive and begins with our nationwide recruiting efforts. We cast a very wide net when looking for instructors in order to generate the best possible applicant pool. Our staff roster typically includes members from a variety of states reaching from coast to coast. A multi-tiered evaluation process is then used to screen applicants before final selections are made. This process includes preliminary screening of qualifications, a minimum two stage interview process, and background and reference checks.

Once hired, Sky Ranch also exceeds industry norms in training. Instructional staff participate in an extensive one month training process. The training includes earning professional certifications in safety and care as well as training related to working with students and Sky Ranch's high quality curriculum. The training process does not end after staff training. Staff members participate in weekly in-service training to refresh skills already learned as well as on-going staff development designed to improve their skills.

Professional Activity Training and Standards

Sky Ranch is an American Camp Association accredited camp. ACA is an independent organization that establishes and evaluates standards and best practices for the camping industry. Our camps are visited and reviewed by fellow camp professionals trained as ACA visitors and graded against a set of standards established by ACA. Sky Ranch exceeds many of the standards set by ACA.

Basic camper protection against dehydration and sunburn is a part of our daily ritual. Sunblock application is scheduled throughout the day. All campers are encouraged to drink water at each

meal and carry filled water bottles throughout the day. Instructors are trained to proactively require campers to stay hydrated throughout the day. Additionally, we encourage rigorous hand washing, daily hygiene procedures, and employ a full-time housekeeping team to help prevent the spread of illness.

To assure students have immediate medical care available while they are here, each school brings a nurse or other first aid trained individual. Should a guest need additional medical treatment, the schools are given directions to nearby medical facilities.

Because safety is critical, it has long been our practice to use the buddy system while on camp, which we define as a minimum of two students. We suggest schools require an adult accompany students whenever they are separated from the rest of the group during their classes and when returning to their cabins. As an added security measure, the chaperones are provided keys and asked to keep the doors locked whenever they leave their cabin. Sky Ranch staff are on-site 24 hours a day and a professional security company patrols the grounds from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. whenever students are staying overnight.

When open for camper use, trained American Red Cross Lifeguards are posted at every water activity.

Instructors are certified in CPR by the American Red Cross. Non-swimmers must wear a life jacket to participate in any water activity and all campers must wear a life jacket at water front activities.

Outstanding Facilities

All ropes courses and ropes equipment are inspected annually by Adventure Experiences Inc. (www.advexp.com). This industry-leading organization also conducts training for our staff who work on our ropes courses. The water in all pools and Sky Lake is tested regularly to ensure the water content is in safe swimming condition. Continuous air inflatables and waterslides are inspected annually by third party inspectors and registered with the Texas Department of Insurance.

All of our cabins are all equipped with locks, door chimes, fire alarms and extinguishers, two-way radios and posted safety procedures in case of emergency. Our electronic entry gates are equipped with access codes and cameras.

Kid Friendly Food Service Standards

Sky Ranch's kitchens are regulated by the Texas Department of State Health Services in the same way public restaurants are regulated. While we are not peanut free, we have limited the amount of peanut products in our food.

Fruits and/or vegetables are integrated into the menus at Sky Ranch, and we also include a full salad bar with all lunch and dinner meals.

Menu alternatives can be provided in the case of severe allergies. Please contact Guest Services at 903.266.3300 for more information.

Safety First. Fun for Life. Growth.

While our heart at Sky Ranch is to see your child grow personally, safety is a top priority at Sky Ranch. We invest significant resources into developing people, property and programs that focus on achieving our objective of managing a secure and welcoming environment. We know how much you treasure your child and we share deeply in your concern for their safety. We appreciate the trust you place in us when you send your child to Sky Ranch and look forward to exceeding your expectations.