

SKY RANCH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

CHAPERONE LETTER

SERIOUSLY **FUN** LEARNING

Dear Chaperone,

First, "THANK YOU" for your willingness to serve as a chaperone on your student's Sky Ranch Outdoor Education trip! This trip would not be possible without you, and we do not take lightly your sacrifice to leave your home, work, life, etc. for the sake of allowing these students to gain from this experience.

The administrators at your student'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 regarding your role as a chaperone. It includes:

- Packing list-chaperone specific
- Chaperone FAQ's
- Sample Schedule
- Participant Agreement Form

Your role is vital in ensuring the safety of each child who attends by offering assistance to Sky Ranch staff throughout the day and providing supervision during the non-instructional times.

For any additional questions you have regarding your time as a chaperone, we recommend reaching out to the lead teacher of your school. If you have any additional questions regarding your trip, 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 them directly:

Chrisleigh Heller
Director of School Programs
903-266-3360

Josh Burns
Lead Event Coordinator
903-266-3387

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PACKING LIST

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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 DO NOT BRING: Illegal substances, jewelry, personal electronics, 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.*

Please be sure to pack:

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

For Class Time:

- **Extra writing utensils are always good to have on hand for students**
- **Water bottle**
- **Sunglasses**

SKY RANCH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

CHAPERONE FAQs

SERIOUSLY **FUN** 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/W1siZiIsIjIwMTgvMDIvMjAvMWhveiM2dW9leF9QYWNRaW5nX0xpc3QucGRml1d/Packing%20List.pdf>

Will I have access to internet while on camp?

Please note that you will have limited access to cell service while on camp. However, while Sky Ranch recommends students leave all electronics at home, we do have designated spots on camp where you can connect to WiFi throughout your trip. These spots include the Legacy Center lobby and the O.E. Barn. If you have specific things you know you will need to take care of while on the trip that would require WiFi, we recommend coordinating with your school's lead teacher to find times you can best step away.

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.

What if I or a student have 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 FoodService@skyranch.org

Will I have access to caffeinated beverages while serving as a chaperone?

YES! There is a coffee and tea bar available for adults only in the lobby of our dining hall starting at 7 am. This will be available for you throughout the day. You will also have access to different soda options in vending machines throughout camp and in the corner store and café.

How much does it cost to attend a Sky Ranch trip as a chaperone?

The cost of a Sky Ranch trip varies based upon the school's chosen length of the trip and selected activities. Prices also might vary between student and chaperone cost depending on differing needs of the school. For questions regarding trip price, please contact your school's lead teacher. All payment will be handled and collected by the school.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

SAMPLE SCHOOL ELEMENTARY

Your Dates

Camp Coordinator: Name

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
7:00		Rise and Shine	Rise and Shine
7:50		Headquarters	Headquarters
8:00		Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30		SkRazy	SkRazy
9:00		Class	Class
		A: Class	A: Class
		B: Class	B: Class
		C: Class	C: Class
	11:00 - Arrival		10:00 - Teachers meet in OE Barn
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30	SkRazy	SkRazy	
1:00	Class	Class	Depart
	A: Class	A: Class	
	B: Class	B: Class	
	C: Class	C: Class	
4:15	See Rec Schedule We will need adult chaperones to be present during this time.	See Rec Schedule We will need adult chaperones to be present during this time.	
6:15	Dinner	Dinner	
6:45	Night Event	Night Event	
10:00	Lights Out	Lights Out	

Group Details

Lead Teacher -	Name	Cabins: 18, 19, 20, 22
Headquarters -	Bluebonnet	Teacher Cabin: 24
Campfire -	Canoe Beach	1 Golf Cart

Zone 1 - Mini Golf, Maze, Tether Ball, Basketball, Horseshoes, Frontier Town

Zone 2 - Gaga Pit, Tether Ball, Soccer, Field Sports

Zone 3 - Gaga Pit, Jumping Pillow, Sand Volleyball

Zone 4 - Activity Center

SKY RANCH PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

Group Name (if applicable): _____

Participant's/Employee's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (if Participant/Employee under age 18): _____ (For purpose of this Agreement, Participant/Employee and Parent/Guardian will be referred to collectively as "Participant.")

In consideration of the opportunity to participate in any activity at (please check one):

____ Sky Ranches Inc.(Texas) ____ Sky Ranch Cave Springs, or ____ Sky Ranch Ute Trail ____ Sky Ranch Horn Creek (hereinafter "Sky Ranch"), Participant acknowledges and agrees to the following:

1. **Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risks.** Participant understands that Sky Ranch's activities range from mild to strenuous and, like all outdoor recreation, they include inherent and other risks and dangers which can cause loss or damage to personal property, physical or psychological damage and injury such as sprains, breaks, cuts, bruises, emotional trauma, illnesses and the remote possibility of serious injury or death. Participant understands the activities and their risks. Participant acknowledges that Participant will be able to ask questions of Sky Ranch staff regarding risks or dangers associated with Sky Ranch's environment and activities. Participant's participation in any activity is voluntary and Participant may decline to participate in any activity. Participant acknowledges and assumes all risks of participation in a Sky Ranch activity, inherent and otherwise, and whether or not described above or in the materials provided by Sky Ranch.

2. **Activity Permission.** Participant understands and agrees that, in addition to traditional camping activities, Sky Ranch's activities include, but not limited to:

- Alpine activities
- Alpine swing
- Blob and inflatables
- Bowling
- Camp fire
- Camping in permanent or temporary structures
- Challenge and ropes courses
- Equine activities
- Gaga
- Hanging log
- Hiking and backpacking
- Jumping Pillow
- Mountain scooters
- Physical fitness exercise (weightlifting, track, treadmill, etc.)
- Play grounds and swings
- Recreational activities (ball games, floor scooters, horseshoes, team building, frisbee, etc.)
- River activities (white water rafting, kayaking, canoeing, etc.)
- Rock climbing and bouldering
- Slackling
- Sporting activities (bb guns, .22 rifles, shotguns, skeet, archery, hatchet throwing, etc.)
- Water activities (pool, lake, pond, swimming, slides, polo, basketball, etc.)
- Zipline

Sky Ranch may offer a challenge course (a series of cables and structures of varying heights, on and through which Participant will walk, swing and otherwise travel, relying on staff for support). Participant understands that by participating in these activities, Participant may be exposed to the elements of nature, including temperature extremes, inclement weather, insects, plants, animals and accidents or illness in a rural location without onsite medical facilities. Participant understands that Participant may be participating in strenuous activities that will have inherent and other risks or dangers associated with them. Participant understands that Participant may ask any questions of Sky Ranch staff to receive a full and complete understanding of any such risk or danger associated with any activity. Participant may decline to participate in any activity. Participant grants permission to participate in and be transported to all Sky Ranch activities unless specified in a written note to Sky Ranch. Participant agrees to follow all rules, guidelines, and equipment requirements for all activities as specified by Sky Ranch staff.

3. **Acknowledgement of Sky Ranch Purpose.** Participant acknowledges and understands that Sky Ranch is organized and operated exclusively for Christian purposes. We treat all guests with respect and dignity, regardless of their religion or beliefs and we request our guests respect our beliefs as stated in the Sky Ranch doctrinal statement while on Sky Ranch property or participating in Sky Ranch activities. Participants who engage in disrespectful or harmful behavior or who refuse to abide by the instructions provided by Sky Ranch staff, while on Sky Ranch property or participating in Sky Ranch activities are subject to removal from the property or program at Sky Ranch's discretion.

4. **AGREEMENTS OF RELEASE AND INDEMNITY.** FURTHER, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN A SKY RANCH ACTIVITY, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW, PARTICIPANT RELEASES, AND AGREES NOT TO BRING ANY CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST SKY RANCH, ITS OWNERS, MANAGERS, EMPLOYEES, MEDICAL PERSONNEL, CONTRACTORS OR ANY RELATED PARTIES (THE "RELEASED PARTIES") FOR LIABILITY OR CLAIMS OF ANY NATURE, INCLUDING LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH, SUFFERED BY PARTICIPANT IN ANY WAY RELATED TO PARTICIPANT'S ENROLLMENT, PARTICIPATION IN, OR TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO A SKY RANCH ACTIVITY. IN ADDITION, PARTICIPANT AGREES TO INDEMNIFY THE RELEASED PARTIES (THAT IS DEFEND THEM, INCLUDING SATISFACTION OF LIABILITIES, COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES) FROM CLAIMS

BROUGHT BY PARTICIPANT, MEMBERS OF PARTICIPANT'S FAMILY AND ANY OTHER PERSON ARISING OUT OF PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN, OR TRANSPORTATION RELATED TO A SKY RANCH ACTIVITY. THE CLAIMS WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF THESE AGREEMENTS OF RELEASE AND INDEMNITY INCLUDE THOSE ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANY RELEASED PARTIES. THE ACTIVITIES INTENDED TO BE COVERED BY THIS AGREEMENT OF RELEASE AND INDEMNITY INCLUDE ACTIVITIES ON OR OFF SKY RANCH PREMISES, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SKY RANCH ACTIVITIES AND ON THE SKY RANCH GROUNDS OR ANY PREMISES UTILIZED BY SKY RANCH FOR ANY OF ITS ACTIVITIES.

5. **No Tobacco Products or Use of Alcohol, Marijuana, Fireworks, Firearms, or Illegal Drugs.** The use of tobacco products (smoking cigars, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, pipes, or smokeless tobacco) and using or having alcohol, marijuana, fireworks, firearms, or illegal drugs is strictly **prohibited** on camp and/or in camp facilities at all times.

6. **Injury/Illness.** Should Participant become ill or injured while participating in a Sky Ranch activity, parents/guardians will be notified if, at the sole discretion of Sky Ranch staff, such notification is necessary. Notification is usually reserved for emergency situations. Parent/Guardian may contact Sky Ranch if at any time a parent/guardian has a question or concern regarding the health status or safety of Participant.

7. **Medical Costs.** Participant understands that Participant and its health insurer are primarily responsible (i.e. "primary"), while the Sky Ranch policy is secondary for any required medical services that Sky Ranch's staff and facilities cannot accommodate. These services include (but are not limited to) prescriptions, x-rays, physical therapy, lab work, dental and orthodontia work and emergency room visits. Participant is also responsible for the cost of any emergency transportation by ambulance or air flight.

8. **Medical Release.** Participant understands that Sky Ranch is not obligated to provide on-site medical care or facilities. In the event that Sky Ranch does provide on-site medical care or facilities, Participant gives permission to the medical personnel selected by Sky Ranch to provide routine healthcare, to administer medications, both over the counter and prescriptions, to order x-rays and routine tests, to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and to order injection, anesthesia or surgery for Participant. Participant authorizes Sky Ranch or its designees to provide or arrange necessary related transportation for Participant. In addition, Participant authorizes the release of all records, x-rays, notes and any other medical information related to Participant to Sky Ranch or its designee. In the event that Sky Ranch does not provide on-site medical care or facilities, it is the responsibility of the Group Sponsor to provide adequately trained medical personnel, adequate supplies as well as permission to treat Participants. In the event of an emergency, Participant gives permission to the medical personnel selected by Sky Ranch to provide routine healthcare, to administer medications, both over the counter and prescriptions, to order x-rays and routine tests, to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and to order injection, anesthesia or surgery for Participant if Group Sponsor cannot be located in the event of an emergency. Participant authorizes Sky Ranch or its designees to provide or arrange necessary related transportation for Participant. In addition, Participant authorizes the release of all records, x-rays, notes and any other medical information related to Participant to Sky Ranch or its designee. Guest Services can provide information regarding the availability of on-site medical care upon request. Please contact our office at guestservices@skyranch.org or by calling 903-266-3300.

9. **Use of Personal Information/Images.** Participant gives Sky Ranch permission to make visual images (photographs, movies, videos) and audio recordings of Participant and to use such visual images and audio recordings on the Sky Ranch website, in printed or electronic materials, or in other audio or visual communications, and Participant releases Sky Ranch from any and all liability related thereto. Sky Ranch will keep any and all personal information regarding Participant confidential and will not disclose or utilize it for any purposes other than Sky Ranch's internal records and marketing purposes.

10. **Applicable Venue and Law.** Any lawsuit, litigation, or dispute of any nature arising out of this agreement or as a result of participant's participation in a sky ranch activity shall be brought in the courts of Smith County, Texas. Furthermore, the laws of the state of Texas shall govern and control any such lawsuit, litigation, or dispute between participant and sky ranch or any related or released party. Participant hereby consents to venue in Smith County, Texas and to the governing authority of Texas law for any lawsuit, litigation, or dispute of any nature arising out of this agreement or as a result of participant's participation in a Sky Ranch activity, regardless of where this agreement is executed or performed or where such sky ranch activity may occur.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE POLICIES, CONSENTS, PERMISSIONS, ASSUMPTIONS OF RISK AND AGREEMENTS OF RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THEM TO THE FULLEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

Printed Name of Participant/Employee

Signature of Participant/Employee

Date

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date