

# SKY RANCH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## PARENT LETTER

### SERIOUSLY **FUN** 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 directly:

**Chrisleigh Heller**  
**Director of School Programs**  
**903-266-3360**

**Josh Burns**  
**Lead Event Coordinator**  
**903-266-3387**

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# 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](mailto: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 [FoodService@skyranch.org](mailto:FoodService@skyranch.org)

#### **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 [FoodService@skyranch.org](mailto:FoodService@skyranch.org).

#### **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.



# 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		<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
8:30		<b>SkRazy</b>	<b>SkRazy</b>
9:00		<b>Class</b>	<b>Class</b>
		A: Class	A: Class
		B: Class	B: Class
		C: Class	C: Class
	11:00 - Arrival		10:00 - Teachers meet in OE Barn
12:00	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
12:30	<b>SkRazy</b>	<b>SkRazy</b>	
1:00	<b>Class</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Depart</b>
	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	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	
6:45	Night Event	Night Event	
10:00	<b>Lights Out</b>	<b>Lights Out</b>	

### Group Details

<b>Lead Teacher -</b>	<b>Name</b>	Cabins: 18, 19, 20, 22
Headquarters -	Bluebonnet	Teacher Cabin: 24
Campfire -	Canoe Beach	1 Golf Cart
<b>Zone 1 - Mini Golf, Maze, Tether Ball, Basketball, Horseshoes, Frontier Town</b>		
<b>Zone 2 - Gaga Pit, Tether Ball, Soccer, Field Sports</b>		
<b>Zone 3 - Gaga Pit, Jumping Pillow, Sand Volleyball</b>		
<b>Zone 4 - Activity Center</b>		

# 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@sky ranch.org](mailto:guestservices@sky ranch.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

**Will my student have to participate in high ropes/challenge courses?**

If the school chooses to select it as a part of their recreational time schedule, students will have the option to participate in a range of ropes activities. At Sky Ranch, we operate under the “challenge by choice” mentality. Your students will be encouraged to participate in activities that challenge and push them out of their comfort zone, but only to a degree that they are ready for. Staff who lead challenge course activities are trained through an Association of Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) preferred vendor member. All challenge course elements and equipment are inspected annually by an Association of Challenge Course Technologies (ACCT) preferred vendor member.

**How do I pay for my student’s Sky Ranch Outdoor Education trip?**

Please direct all questions regarding payment or refunds to your school’s lead teacher. Any payment you will make for your student leading up to the trip will be given directly to the school.