

# ADVENTURE PLANNING GUIDE

## *Laguna Station Adventure Sea Base*

*33174 State Park Rd. 100,  
South Padre Island, Texas, 78597*



2017

# Laguna Station

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We strive to keep this document up to date; however, information in this guide is subject to change. Please consult with Laguna Station Management regarding specific information.



# Welcome to Laguna Station

## *South Padre Island, Texas*

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**Laguna Station Specialty Adventure Sea Base is** operated by the Rio Grande Council, Boy Scouts of America, on the southern tip of South Padre Island. This sunny and beautiful barrier island stretches over a hundred miles along the Texas Gulf coast. South Padre Island has, in the last thirty years, become the most popular vacation spot in Texas . . . with good reason. The unsurpassed fishing offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and in the sheltered Laguna Madre is the foundation of tournaments that draw sportsmen from all parts of the country. The island's miles of breakers are the setting for surf contests, and the wind beckons sailing regattas. (It's no wonder the Laguna Station surfing program is so popular.)

The headquarters of Laguna Station is the southernmost part of the island. Along with the Station's Trading Post building, it contains a tent city and breezy shelters. The Station continues a 21-year tradition of food that's locally catered and you can sleep by the cool Gulf breezes and waterfront.

Adjacent to the camp is Scout Beach where swimming, kayaking, fishing, paddle boards and beach combing activities take place. Within a short walk is the Gulf of Mexico beach where surfing, boogie boarding, snorkeling, fishing and other events are held throughout the week. For units that will be doing the Scuba Adventure you will get trained in the Gulf of Mexico just a few yards from camp!



might have.

Please read this guidebook from cover to cover and share the information with parents and Scouts. This guidebook was put together to provide you, the crew leader, with all the necessary information to get your crew ready and to assure a great high adventure. Do not hesitate to call or email our office with any questions you

**RESERVATIONS ONLINE AT [www.riograndecouncil.org](http://www.riograndecouncil.org) OR EMAIL ERNEST ESPINOZA AT [ernest.espinoza@scouting.org](mailto:ernest.espinoza@scouting.org) CELL: 214-907-9759**

# Adventures: Island Adventure, Scuba & Gulf Fishing Adventure. (Must be 13 years of age)

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**Island Adventure:** Our program provides its participants an opportunity to sample all of South Padre Island's attractions. After Sunday night's opening ceremonies, you will spend a week based at Station Headquarters taking part in an exciting taste of Island activities. Your Adventure may include surfing, body surfing, exploring, beach combing, snorkeling, sea turtle release, shark fishing, kayaking, fishing, speed boat trip, Eco-touring, day trip to Schlitterbahn and more. Evening programs include Beach Volleyball, paddle boarding, Game Night, *Jaws* surfside and under the stars, and the Friday night closing Pachanga and fireworks. Don't forget the delicious catered food!



**Island Adventure Crew Size: 6 Minimum \$600 per person (Fuel Surcharge May Apply)**

| <b>Laguna Adventure Weeks:</b> | <b>Dates:</b>        |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Week 1 (Sabbath Friendly Week) | June 19-24, 2017     |
| Week 2                         | June 25-July 1, 2017 |
| Week 3                         | July 2-8, 2017       |

## **SCUBA Certification (18 crew size) \$800 per person.**

**This includes the NAUI SCUBA certification, food and equipment (goggles, air tanks, breathing apparatus, weights flippers) use for the week of camp.**

What could be a better setting than South Padre Island to become a certified SCUBA diver? Participants spend a week at Station headquarters becoming NAUI certified SCUBA diver? Professional instructors will provide classroom/pool work and practical experience to prepare you for open water dives in the Gulf of Mexico. Evening programs, campfires and free time for sandy beaches and volleyball make for one outstanding week. We'll see you underwater.



## **Gulf Fishing Adventure 8 Minimum \$800 per person (Fuel Surcharge May Apply)**

Laguna Station provides one of the most unforgettable saltwater fishing experiences on the Gulf Coast! You will begin your adventure wade-fishing in the crystal clear waters of the Laguna Madre and then it is off to the beach to ply the surf for large Reds, Spanish Mackerel & Sharks. Spend a half-day offshore fishing for the BIG ONES; Kingfish, Dorado, Ling and other blue-water species. Guided field trips to stalk the flats for speckled Trout, Redfish and Flounder will bring you the highlight of the week. "Speck-tackler" night fishing from a self-contained lodge in the Laguna Madre completes a world-class week of saltwater fishing excitement. As if all of this wasn't enough, you will have free time to play at the beach or tour South Padre Island. Texas fishing licenses and salt-water stamps are needed for all those between the ages of 17-65. Contact the Station for license fees.

# Arrival and Departure

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**Schedule:** *All adventures will follow the following Arrival and Departure itineraries:*

## **Sunday, First Day in Camp**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 2-4 pm   | Arrive @ station, check in with medicals, tour permit, and Texas regulation forms<br>Introduction by Island Mate, settle into quarters, camp tour, swim test<br>Beach time for Scouts with Staff until Dinner. |
| 6:00 pm  | Strike Colors (Field Uniform) – parade ground  |
| 6:10 pm  | Dinner @ Laguna Station  |
| 7:30 pm  | Meet with Island Guides discuss the weekly itinerary. Leaders Meeting, and Evening Program   |
| 10:30 pm | Quiet Hour   |
| 11:00 pm | Lights Out   |

Monday through Friday program schedules and crew responsibilities will be discussed and modified at the 7:30 PM meeting with the crew and staff. Emergency procedures and weather related issues will be discussed at this meeting.

All discussion on the schedule will be made by the crew and a representative for the camp wide activities.

## **Saturday, Last Day in Camp**

A regular breakfast will be served; however, a continental breakfast can be arranged to accommodate travel plans if needed. Station staff will confirm your travel plans on Friday. We ask all Crews to please depart by 10:00 am.

If you require an early or late check in or departure, please advise the Station Camp Director as soon as possible so we may accommodate your schedule.



# Travel and Arrival Notes

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**Traveling to Camp:** Crews will check in at Laguna Station Base Camp on the southern tip of South Padre Island. Plan to arrive between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM Sunday afternoon. Processing of damage deposits, physicals, tour permits, swim checks, and Texas regulation forms will be done at this time.



Crews arriving by airplane should fly into either the Rio Grande Valley (HRL) or Brownsville/South Padre Island International (BRO) Airports. In 2016, prices for shuttle service from Harlingen International Airport were about \$40 per person. Arrangements must be made through independent providers prior to arrival. Contact the airport.

Laguna Station's headquarters is in the town of South Padre Island, Texas, about 30 miles east of Harlingen and 15 miles north of Brownsville. Coming from the north, take US Highway 77 through Harlingen and San Benito. Look for the exit for South Padre Island, Highway 100. (If coming from the west, you may follow US Highway 83 through until it joins Highway 77 in Harlingen, and continue south to Highway 100. Highway 100 goes through Los Fresnos and Port Isabel before crossing the causeway to South Padre Island. After crossing the causeway, turn right and go for about a quarter mile, park at Sea Ranch restaurant before passing through the tollbooth at Isla Blanca Park. Notify Ernest Espinoza at 214-907-9759 and he will bring you your passes to enter the park (no charge to Station participants). Otherwise it's \$10.00 per car per day. Then after you get your passes drive and keep right until you see the sign for the Station. Follow the driveway to the right until you reach the boat ramp parking lot.

Crews must depart by 10:00 a.m. the following Saturday.

# Cancellation Policy

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Please notify Laguna Station immediately if you are unable to attend.

The 8.30% per person deposit is **non-refundable**.

Crews canceling before March 15, 2017 will be assessed a 25% cancellation fee for total.

*Troops and Crews canceling after March 15, 2017 will forfeit all funds paid.*

Treks Slots are transferable to another crew in the same season.

## Who to Bring

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**Adult Leadership Requirements:** Laguna Station appreciates the responsibility you have assumed as an adult leader for your Troop or crew. Our desire is to help you create a fantastic adventure for your crew members, and we will do everything we can to insure your success.

National policy of the Boy Scouts of America requires two leaders on all trips your unit makes, regardless of length. All units arriving at the Station must have two adult leaders. One of these leaders must be twenty-one years of age or over and certified in Safe Swim Defense, Safety-a-Float, and Weather Hazards. The other must be at least eighteen. Co-ed Explorer Posts and Venturing Crews must have appropriate co-ed leadership, male and female leaders both over twenty-one.

The majority of members in every crew must be youth.

*Laguna Station accepts participants regardless of race, sex, creed, or national origin.*



## **Participant Requirements for Scouts going to Laguna Station:**

- ✓ Participants must be registered members of BSA.
- ✓ Participants must be 13 years old by January 1 of the year of attendance.
- ✓ Participants must be able to pass the standard BSA swim test.
- ✓ All participants must have part A, B, and C of the BSA Medical Form completed at time of check-in to Laguna Station.
- ✓ *At least one member of each crew must have a current certification in first aid and CPR.*

Laguna Station strives to minimize risks to participants and adult leaders through emphasizing proper safety precautions. Most participants do not experience injury during their adventure precisely because they are aware of the risks involved and because they exercise proper safety precautions. If you are planning to attend Laguna Station, you should be physically fit, have proper clothing and equipment, and be willing to follow the instructions of your staff member, work as a team and take responsibility for your own health and safety. By studying this Leader's Guidebook, a crew can be properly prepared for the contingencies that may arise during your adventure.

Parents, guardians, adult, leaders, and participants in Station programs are advised that Station programs, and journeying to and from the Station, can involve exposure to accident, illness, and/or injury associated with a physically demanding high adventure program conducted in a sometimes hostile aquatic environment.

Participants may be exposed to severe weather conditions such as high heat and humidity, tropical storms and intense tropical sun. Other possibilities include sunburn, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, dehydration, asthma and heart attacks.

Sea creatures such as stingrays, anemones, sea urchins, jellyfish and sharks pose little or no threat if safe distances and respect are given to them.

Laguna Station is dedicated to the mission of serving young people in a safe, educational and enjoyable aquatic environment. We are prepared for contingencies, trained for emergencies, and able to act in an expedient manner in case of emergencies. The Station staff is trained in first aid, CPR, preventing accidents, and in reacting and responding to accidents, injuries and illness. Furthermore, professional medical services such as hospitals and physician's offices are a short distance from Station programs and the Station maintains a working agreement with these facilities.

We hope that this information will motivate leaders, parents, guardians and participants to be prepared and informed. By working together as well prepared and informed Scouters can all enjoy a safe Laguna Station/South Padre Island High Adventure experience.

# Pre-Trip Planning

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**Organize Information:** To aid you in your pre-trip planning, we suggest that you do not rely solely on the information that you will receive from the Station. Some other reference material might include **Lifesaving, Swimming and First-Aid Merit Badge** pamphlets. Your **Scoutmaster's Handbook, Field Book** and the **Boy Scout Handbook** can also be helpful. Please verify that your reservation is correct. Is the number of people correct? Are your arrival and departure dates correct? Is the fee correct? If you have any questions at all, please call us. Many advisors like to organize their paperwork in a loose leaf notebook.

**Budget:** Plan for travel even if you are flying in on your arrival day. Include money for overnight stops, meals, and emergencies.



**Schedule Travel:** The pamphlet *Tours and Expeditions* (#3734) is a good start. If you are driving, check with state tourist departments for suggested sights to see on your way down. Plan to sight see and take your time coming down. Many Crews report that stops at the National Scouting Museum in Dallas, the Texas State Capital in Austin, and the Alamo in San Antonio were excellent side trips and convenient.

**Involve Parents:** Schedule times when the parents of your crew can get together and gather information on the adventure. Keep them informed and their questions answered. Go over the suggested equipment list. Share the emergency telephone numbers for the Station.

**Tour Permit:** All crews must complete the National Tour Permit (#4419A) if traveling more than 500 miles. Otherwise Local Tour Permits are sufficient. The permit must be filed at least one month prior to your leaving for the Station. **You will not be allowed to participate in your adventure without a tour permit, no exceptions.**

**Medical Forms:** All members of your crew must furnish the station with a current BSA Medical Form with part A, B, and C. This form must be completed within one calendar year before the date that you will arrive back home from the Station. Make sure parents sign forms for those crew members under the age of 18. **Failure to come prepared with complete crew member medical forms will delay your crew's high adventure experience. The Station does not have a physician on staff.**

# What to Bring

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## Equipment List

**Duplicate this page for all your Troop/crew members.**

- Uniform for travel and dinners
- Wet shoes or reef sandals, no open toe shoes allowed
- Dry shoes (canvas suggested)
- 6 T-shirts (light colored)
- 3-4 pairs of shorts
- At least one long: sleeve cotton shirt and light cotton pants
- 2 Bathing suits
- Light Rain Jacket (no ponchos)
- Wide brimmed hat
- Sun glasses (polarized if fishing)
- Personal Hygiene Kit (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste...etc.)
- 8oz of #30 Sun Screen or greater
- Lip Balm with at least 30 SPF
- 3 towels
- 1 sheet and light blanket or sleeping bag
- 1 pillow
- Sleeping pad (optional, we provide cots in base camp)
- Mosquito repellent and netting, recommended, but save the receipt.
- Flash light
- Pocket knife
- Camp chair
- Water Bottle (#1 Forgotten Item)
- Duffel bag for packing

### **Optional Items:**

- Camera
- Fishing equipment provided:
- Hammock

***Out of Council Units will need Proof of Insurance***

*Flip-flops are not appropriate footwear in the bay or on the jetties.*

# Tips on Clothing

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Pack your equipment in a duffel bag or backpack without a frame for the purpose of packing your gear onto our program vessels. Sailboats and power boats are not conducive to the storage and transportation of suitcases or non-crushable containers.

Shoes or sandals are required at all times on land or when walking in the water. Most participants find closed toe sandals or water shoes to be comfortable and well suited for your adventure. On the sailing vessels, you will essentially be participating in a barefoot cruise unless the weather and sea conditions dictate a need for shoes for protection. Do not bring black soled shoes if you are participating in the sailing program because they will mark the deck of the boats.

Summer temperatures vary from 75° to 95°F night and day with high humidity, light breezes and occasional rain squalls. Concerns are to dress cool, have rain protection and sun protection. You will find yourself primarily dressed in T-shirts and swim trunks.

All participants will be required to wear a modest bathing suit for all aquatic activities. No bikinis will be permitted during camp activities. Two piece "tankinis" are approved if they provide the approximate coverage of a one-piece suit.

The official Scout uniform *for your program* is highly recommended for traveling to and from the Station, and is required for striking the colors. The "pachanga attire", which can be worn Friday at dinner and at closing ceremonies, can be any type of festive clothing such as Hawaiian print or tie dye T-shirts.

A good quality rain jacket is desirable. A poncho is not recommended because the loose corners could get caught in boat parts.

Sleeping bag or bedroll: A bed roll of two sheets and a light blanket or a very light sleeping bag is all that is necessary in the summer. A foam pad or air mattress is recommended for participants in all programs. Both beach and sailboat decks are hard, unlevelled and uncomfortable for sleeping. Cots and tents are provided while in Base Camp.

# Unit Medical Equipment

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## Unit Equipment:

Each crew should bring its own first aid kit. This is for the treatment of minor injuries. All Station vessels carry an additional first aid kit as well. The treatment of minor injuries is up to the crew leader or the crew's trained first aider. The treatment of injuries that the crew does not feel capable of treating is at the discretion of the Station Medical Officer.

## Suggested Supplies For Your Crew First Aid Kit:

|                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adhesive Tape 1" x 5 yards       | "Tylenol"               |
| Antacid                          | "Swimmer Ear" Ear Drops |
| Antibiotic Ointment              | Hydrocortisone Cream    |
| Aspirin (limit access to adults) | Ammonia                 |
| Assorted Sizes of Band-Aids      | Disposable latex gloves |
| Motion Sickness Medicine         | Ace Type Bandage        |
| Chapstick—SPF 30 minimum         | Antihistamine           |
| Disposable Alcohol Wipes         | Chemical Ice Pack       |
| Insect Repellant                 | Needle                  |
| Meat Tenderizer                  | Oval Eye Patch          |
| Rubbing Alcohol                  | Small Bar of Soap       |
| Safety Pin                       | Thermometer             |
| Sun Screen (#30 Minimum)         | Triangular Bandage      |
| Tweezers                         | Gauze Pads 3x3          |

**Note:** This is a basic first aid kit. For more specific medical needs, the Station maintains a health lodge and first aid kits on all vessels and program areas.

**Sea Sickness:** The Station suggests that your troop's/crew's first aid kit contain motion sickness medication. We further suggest that your crew members check with their individual physicians regarding a motion sickness medication. We find that the vast majority of participants will not experience sea sickness and encourage leaders to adopt an attitude that does not plant an expectation in participant's minds.

**Sunburn:** Sunburn can be quite dangerous as well as uncomfortable and can ruin your entire trip. Get a good tan at home before you come to South Texas. Start slowly at first then increase the dosage as you see what you can take. Use a good sunscreen and cover those parts of your body that burn easily. Do not bring sun tan oils; it makes boat decks very slick and can discolor decks. In the event of sunburn, loose fitting cotton clothing will protect you from further burning.

# Policies and Procedures

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## **Alcohol & Drugs**

It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is not permitted at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members.

## **Tobacco**

Adult leaders should support the attitude that they, as well as youth, are better off without tobacco in any form and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers, or electronic nicotine delivery systems that simulate tobacco smoking.

All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants located at the overflow parking lot/dumpster area. References: Scoutmaster Handbook, No. 33009, and Boy Scout Handbook, No. 34554

## **Medical Marijuana**

It is unacceptable for anyone to use or be under the influence of medical marijuana at or during any Scouting activity.

**Troop/Crew Roster:** Please send a copy of your official Unit roster to Laguna Station with your final payment. Your roster must be an original report from your local Council. This is our assurance that all participants are registered BSA members.

**Clean up:** An after meal and restroom clean-up schedule will be made for each program crew. Troops/Crews will be assigned dining hall and restroom clean-up duties during the week.

**Quarters:** Participants sleep on cots in two-man wall tents while at Laguna Station base camp. Showers and latrines are adjacent to the tent area. Each crew member should be responsible for the cleanliness of his or her area.

**Fireworks/Firearms:** Without exception, anyone, youth or adult, possessing fireworks or firearms will be asked to leave the Station immediately without refund at the cost of the unit or family.

**Fuel Surcharges:** Rising fuel prices may make it necessary to add a fuel surcharge to your Trek. Please consult Laguna Station staff prior to arrival for your activities.

**Mail:** Please do not send mail to participants or leaders. Most mail will arrive after your crew has left for home.

**Money:** Since your fees cover all of your program expenses, theoretically, you could attend Laguna Station with no need of further finances. However, there are several opportunities requiring cash, I.E. the trading post, coin operated telephones, bait stand, etc. We suggest you bring between \$70-\$150 for spending money.

**Non-Swimmers:** In the event that a crew member is unable to complete the standard BSA swim check in a proficient manner, he/she will not be able to participate in any water activities during the week. This policy includes adults, and **NO EXCEPTIONS** will be made.

**Menu:** The Laguna Station menu includes three balanced meals a day. If any Troop/Crew members have special dietary requirements, the Station must be informed of them at least six weeks before arrival to insure accommodation.

**Payments:** Please, to correctly credit your account, all payments must be accompanied by your Unit Number, Week of Attendance, and Program Choice. All payments must be made through doubleknot using the Rio Grande Council, BSA Website. To reduce the cost and keep the prices down, please use a unit check when making payments to the Rio Grande Council online.

**Stereos and electronic entertainment:** Stereo's, CD Players, I-Pod's, lap-top computers, and PSP's and other electronics distract from the Station experience. Please leave them in your vehicles. Remember that daily temperatures are from 90-100 degrees. There will be a couple opportunities to hook into the Station's sound system. Troops/Crews wishing to put together play lists of up to 30 minutes are encouraged to do so. Please remember to make your selections Scouting appropriate.

**Storage:** Storage accommodations for crew personal items are very limited at headquarters and on the water. Station Staff is nit responsible for lost or water damaged electronics.

**Telephone Contact:** Contact with participants by phone is difficult. We recommend each Unit inform their parents of the cell phone numbers of every participant in camp. Emergency calls can be made to the Ernest Espinoza at 214-907-9759. At Check-in unit leaders should present a cell phone list for each leader. The list will be posted and kept in the trading post.

**Leaving the Station:** Participants may leave the Station only in the company of their advisers, and must check out and in. On this basis, crews are encouraged to tour South Padre Island. Almost every feature can be reached by foot, or by using the island transit system, *The Metro*. Remember when you are leaving the station that you represent the Boy Scouts of America in your actions and language. All behavior should reflect a model scout.

**Valuables:** Please leave non-essentials at home. If you must bring valuables, bring a large envelope to collect watches, wallets, etc. for the unit leaders. The station does not have safe keeping locations for collection of any items.

**Swimwear:** All participants will be required to wear a modest bathing suit for all aquatic activities. No bikinis will be permitted during camp activities. "Tankinis" are allowed if they provide the coverage of a one-piece suit. Many participants, male and female find a compression T-shirt or Rash Guard provides the best comfort and protection during activities.





# Youth Protection Guidelines

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## Texas Youth Camp Compliance:

Effective May 16, 2010, Texas enacted new youth resident camp guidelines for all camps in the state of Texas. All camp staff members and Adult Scouters must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America, complete the current BSA Youth Protection Training, and have a current background check conducted by the Rio Grande Council, BSA. **All items must be provided to the Rio Grande Council three weeks prior to arrival at Camp. This is mandatory for all participants 18 years and over.**

To comply with the law, the following documents must be on file at the camp for each adult participant:

- Official BSA Unit Membership Roster
- Current Youth Protection Certificate
- Current Year Background Check done by Rio Grande Council, BSA
- Leaders and youth 18 years and older must complete a training session and pass a 25 question exam soon after arrival at camp. This will be arranged by the Camp Director upon arrival.

\*\* If you need assistance in any of these items please contact the Rio Grande Council Service Center.



# Rio Grande Council Camps Texas Youth Camp Act Rules

On April 16, 2006 and May 16, 2010, the State of Texas passed new regulations that affect the Texas Youth Camps Safety and Health Act. These new regulations affect all licensed youth camps in the state of Texas, including Boy Scout summer camps and Cub Scout day camps. As a result, there is a change of policy for all leaders and adults attending any of the Rio Grande Council Camps during summer camp. The following is a synopsis of the new laws in place that affect summer camp operation:

- 1) The camp management shall have on file a **CURRENT** record of any criminal conviction for all adult staff members and all adult volunteers working at the camp. (This includes adult leaders and parents attending camp with their Pack, Troop, or Crew as participants.)
- 2) Records of criminal convictions and sex offender status may be obtained by an **ANNUAL** criminal background check **and** by performing an **ANNUAL** background check using a Sex Offender Registration database for each staff member's permanent residence and educational residence.
- 3) Effective June 1, 2006, a youth camp licensee may not employ or accept the volunteer service of an individual for a position involving contact with campers at a youth camp unless youth camp has on file documentation that verifies the individual has successfully completed the training and examination program required by this subsection. (This includes adult leaders and parents attending camp with their Pack, Troop, or Crew as participants.) As a result of these changes to the Texas Youth Camp Act, the following policies shall now be in affect for all adults coming as participants to Rio Grande Council Camps this summer, whether as an adult camper or adult staff member.  
**ADULT = ANYONE OVER THE AGE OF 18**

- A. All adults coming to participate at Rio Grande Council Camps **MUST** be registered as an adult leader with the Boy Scouts of America. No exceptions.
- B. All adults must submit to a current criminal background check (conducted within the last year) to determine if any prior convictions preclude their involvement or participation at a licensed camp in the state of Texas.
- C. All adults coming to camp must submit to a background check through the Sex Offender Registration database.
- D. All adults must show completion of the BSA **ONLINE** Youth Protection Training by providing a copy of their training certificate, and it must be currently valid (taken within the last two years). The Online YPT is the only approved course acceptable for showing compliance to rule #3. All courses must be approved by the state, and this is the one that has been approved by the State for BSA Leaders. **(MUST BE COMPLETED EVERY TWO YEARS)**

As an aid in complying with these new rules, the Rio Grande Council has put together an application that **MUST** be completed by **EVERY** adult coming to camp this summer. *The only exception to this rule is a person that comes to camp as a visitor, does not stay overnight, and stays no longer than half a day, and has no unsupervised contact with youth.*

Beyond that, **ALL** adults at camp (whether it is one day or all week) must complete this form and the steps indicated. The Rio Grande Council will conduct all background checks using the same procedures already in place for adult applications submitted to our office. Information obtained from the check, and information on the form is treated with the strictest confidentiality and is safeguarded. The information will be used to meet the regulations of the Texas Youth Camp Act to determine if any adult is precluded from participation as outlined in section 265.12 of this act. Please have all adult participants from your Troop fill out the following Application for Participation, and the Disclosure/Authorization form and submit them to the Camp Director at least 6 weeks prior to your arrival at camp.

# Rio Grande Council Camps

## Adult Leader Application for Participation

This form must be filled out *completely* and legibly. This form is REQUIRED from all adults over the age of 18 that will attend camp. Please print and use blue or black ink.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver License State: \_\_\_\_\_ DLN#: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Are you registered with the Boy Scouts of America? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO**

If no, you must complete the registration process **before** attending camp. All participants must attach a copy of their registration card or an *official BSA* copy of the unit roster showing their name as a registered member of that unit.

**2. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor? (You may answer NO if your conviction was ordered sealed, expunged or eradicated) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No**

Conviction of a crime is not an automatic bar to participation. All circumstances will be considered, including what you were convicted of and how long ago. You must provide complete information about any conviction by attaching a separate statement.

**3. Have you completed the BSA Online Youth Protection Training course within the last 24 months? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO (Must be completed bi-annually!)**

If NO, you MUST complete this course and attach a copy of the certification card provided upon successful completion of the training. Training may be completed at the BSA Online Learning Center:

<http://www.myscouting.org> If you have already completed the course, please attach the copy of the card to this form.

**4. Personal information provided at the top of the form will be used to conduct a search in the Sex Offender Registration database to meet this state requirement.**

The system used for the criminal background check will also conduct a check in the sex offender database. Both searches will be conducted at one time in our office, so there is no need to attach searches done by the unit.

**5. As of May 16, 2010, ALL adults participating in a licensed youth camp in the state of TX MUST have a criminal background check (conducted annually) in order to determine if any person may be precluded from participation in a state licensed camp based on the results of this check.**

The National Office of the BSA has made arrangements for councils in the state of Texas to conduct these background checks for all participants of their summer camp programs. The Rio Grande Council will conduct these checks on all participants to ensure compliance with the Texas Youth Camp Act.

**By signing and submitting this application, you are authorizing a criminal background check and a search in the Sex Offender Registration database of yourself. This check will be made from public record sources. You also confirm that the information provided and attached to this form is true and not falsified in any way.**

**You must also sign the Disclosure & Authorization Form Attached.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Did We Miss Something?**

We strive to make this Trek Planning guide as complete as possible. As Unit Scouters ourselves, we know how important this Trek is to your Unit. We want to make this your best summer camp experience, beginning with the decision to attend and following through until you are safely home. Please remember that items in this Leader's Guide are subject to change. If you have specific requirements, please contact the Ernest Espinoza at 214-907-9759 cell.

# *Laguna Station*

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