

Buffalo Trail Council Camps Texas Youth Camp Act Rule Changes

On April 16, 2006, the state of Texas passed into law new regulations that affect the Texas Youth Camps Safety and Health Act. These new laws 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 Buffalo Trail Council Camps this summer. (BTSR, HAB, Thomas, or District Day Camps)

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 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 Texas law, the following policies shall now be in affect for all adults coming as participants to Buffalo Trail Council Camps this summer, whether as an adult camper or adult staff member.

- A. All adults coming to participate at Buffalo Trail Council Camps **MUST** be registered with the Boy Scouts of America. No exceptions. (Since registration with the BSA requires a criminal background check, this covers new rule # 1.)
- B. All adults coming to camp must submit to and show the results of a background check through the Sex Offender Registration database. (This is done through a website and is conducted without charge. This covers rule change # 2.)
- C. All adults must show completion of the BSA **ONLINE** Youth Protection Training, with a date on the card showing April 16, 2006 or beyond. (This 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 submitted for approval. **NO OTHER YOUTH PROTECTION CLASSES TAKEN PRIOR TO APRIL 16TH CAN BE ACCEPTED. ONLY BSA ONLINE YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING TAKEN AFTER APRIL 16TH CAN BE ACCEPTED. (MUST BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY!)**

As an aid in complying with these new rules, the Buffalo Trail 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. Beyond that, ALL adults at camp (whether it is one day or all week) must complete this form and the steps indicated.

This can be assigned as a duty to a unit leader. That person can collect the forms, conduct the background check in the Sex Offender Registration database, collect YPT certification cards, and obtain a BSA copy of the unit roster showing all adults as registered in the Pack, Troop or Crew. This packet must then be submitted to camp management immediately upon arrival to camp.

Buffalo Trail Council Camps Adult Leader Application for Participation

This form must be filled out *completely* and legibly. Please print and use blue or black ink.

Last Name: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Birthdate: _____ Sex: _____

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 between the dates of April 16th, 2006 and today? ____ Yes ____ NO (Must be completed 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 in the "Training" section of the Buffalo Trail Council website at: www.buffalotrailbsa.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.

You may conduct the search yourself, or it can be assigned to a leader in the unit to conduct all checks for participating adults. Searches are done by going to this address: <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/soSearch/soSearch.cfm>

A copy of the results, whether positive or negative, **MUST** be attached to this form.

By signing this form, I swear that the information provided and attached is true and not falsified in any way. I also acknowledge that the personal information provided may be used to conduct a background check and a search in the Sex Offender Registration database.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____