



## **Family Camp Fall 2020- The STEM Center of Excellence at Camp Whispering Cedars**

**Q: Are meals included in the price?**

**A:** No. All families are responsible for bringing their own food. A unit shelter with oven, stove, microwave and refrigerator is provided in the Cedar Lodge and Glen Oaks cabins. Templeton and Tejas lodges have their own kitchenettes.

**Q: Are there any limitations on what we are allowed to do while on site at the STEM Center of Excellence?**

**A:** Yes. Your group is not permitted to participate in swimming. In addition, you may not bring supplies for archery or hunting. You may sign up for outdoor amenities that are listed on UltraCamp. You will be assigned times for using the unit shelter as well as the showers.

**Q: Can we visit another family staying in a lodge or cabin?**

**A:** No. Your family must stay in your assigned units and not visit the other cabins or lodges while at camp.

**Q: Do I need to list every member of my family in my reservation?**

**A:** Yes. You are required to include every member of your family who will be at Family Camp in the reservation.

**Q: Do we get to choose our activity times?**

**A:** Yes. You may sign your family up for amenities by time slots shown on UltraCamp. Our staff will not mix campers with those attending day workshops. It is imperative that families in camp do not interact with each other.

**Q: Do we have to be troop camp trained in order to attend a Family Camp weekend at the STEM Center of Excellence?**

**A:** No. You may attend without being troop camp trained. However, you may not have a fire if you are not troop camp certified. You may choose to camp and make food such as sandwiches that do not require cooking over a fire. If you wish to have a campfire for any reason and are not troop camp trained, you will be required to learn proper camp procedures from a member of camp staff prior to your first fire, and you must agree to follow all of the procedures. Camp staff will work with you to set up the time and location of the training after you arrive at camp.

**Q: Do we have to be troop camp trained in order to sleep in the Primitive Camping Pods at the STEM Center of Excellence?**

**A:** No. You may attend without being troop camp trained. However, you may not have a fire if you are not troop camp certified. You may choose to camp and make food such as sandwiches that do not require cooking over a fire. If you wish to have a campfire for any reason and are not troop camp trained, you will be required to learn proper camp procedures from a member of camp staff prior to your first fire, and you must agree to follow all of the procedures. Camp staff will work with you to set up the time and location of the training after you arrive at camp.

**Q: Do we have to bring masks to wear at the STEM Center of Excellence?**

**A:** Yes. Each member of your family needs to bring 2 masks to wear at camp. You will be required to wear a mask any time you are not in your assigned unit, as well as, when camp staff is in the unit for any reason. You must wear a mask during check-in, check-out, and during designated program times as stated by signage or camp staff (including certain self-guided hikes on camp property). Camp staff will not lead programming for anyone not wearing a mask when required.

**Q: Do we have to self-check for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving at camp?**

**A:** Yes. Everyone who will be at camp must self-check for symptoms prior to arrival on camp. Please see the full COVID-19 paperwork for additional details.

**Q: Do we need to bring sunscreen and bug spray?**

A: Yes. Please be sure to bring sunscreen and bug spray with you and reapply frequently while at camp. West Nile virus is currently active in Dallas County. See information on prevention and treatment from Dallas County Health Department here: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/westnile-watch-20.php>.

Q: **If someone in my group is not a Girl Scout, can we pay a reduced rate for them?**

A: No. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering a rate of \$25 per person for a two-night stay in a cabin or lodge. As a result, additional discounts are not available.

Q: **Is the gear provided for us if we want to use a primitive camping pod space at the STEM Center of Excellence?**

A: No. You are responsible for providing all of your camping equipment if you request to reserve a primitive camping pod space at the STEM Center of Excellence. Please email [stem@gsgnetx.org](mailto:stem@gsgnetx.org) for a list of recommended gear to bring to camp.

Q: **May we swim while at camp?**

A: No. Due to COVID-19 and the possible risk of exposure lifeguards would face if they have to complete a rescue, swimming will not be available at the STEM Center of Excellence.

Q: **What is the Primitive Camping Pod Experience?**

A: For primitive camping, you may enjoy stargazing and discovering the local flora and fauna as you explore the trails at the STEM Center on your own. Please email [stem@gsgnetx.org](mailto:stem@gsgnetx.org) if you need ideas on other possible activities you can do on your own while at the STEM Center of Excellence.

Q: **Will we be checked for COVID-19 symptoms at the STEM Center?**

A: Yes. Camp Staff will take the temperature of everyone upon arrival the STEM Center of Excellence using a non-contact infrared thermometer. We will ask each individual if they have COVID-19 symptoms. There will also be a temperature and symptom check each day you are on camp property. If anyone has a temperature above 99.6° F or is experiencing other COVID-19 symptoms, your group must promptly leave camp premises. Once on camp, individuals are discouraged to leave. If you do leave camp for any reason, you will be subject to an additional COVID-19 screening in its entirety at the convenience of camp staff.

Q: **Will we have cell phone service at the STEM Center of Excellence?**

A: Possibly. Cell phone service varies greatly depending on location, weather, and if you are trying to send a text or make a phone call. We encourage families to minimize use of technology while spending time together in nature.

Q: **Will we have internet access at the STEM Center of Excellence?**

A: Possibly. Internet access varies greatly depending on proximity to a program building with WIFI. Please email [stem@gsgnetx.org](mailto:stem@gsgnetx.org) if you require internet access while at a cabin or lodge. Internet access is not available in the primitive camping pods. We encourage families to minimize use of technology while spending time together in nature.

Q: **Will we receive a refund if we have to cancel prior to arriving because someone in the group may have been exposed to COVID-19, is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or is awaiting COVID-19 test results?**

A: Yes. GSGNETX will provide a full refund if you need to cancel for any of the above reasons related to COVID-19.

Q: **Will we see any wildlife while at the STEM Center of Excellence?**

A: Possibly. Since our camps have been closed for several months, there is a strong possibility you will see a variety of wildlife while at camp, which may include but not necessarily be limited to spiders, snakes, insects, birds, armadillos, raccoons, and deer just to name a few. Please do not panic if you see any of our camp wildlife. Although you should not approach the wildlife, you may take a photo with your camera from a safe distance. Situations may vary greatly, but the general recommendation when you see wildlife is to pause and then back away slowly. Remember, we are in their natural environment.

Q: **Can we plan activities with another family staying at the primitive camping pods?**

A: No. Only one household per site is permitted at the assigned primitive camp pod where safety hygiene, distancing and all COVID-19 protocols are to be followed completely. In this case, council staff is controlling the premises and safety protocols as well as the number of the total participants. No interactive activities or shared camping facilities (including meals) will be allowed.

