Designing your Trip

Schedule

- Review our **Program Options** and our **sample schedule** on the next pages
- **Long Day trips**: Select 4-6 daytime options, 1 evening (campfire is recommended)
- **Short Day trips**: Select 3-5 daytime options
- Email your activity requests to discovery@campallen.org as soon as you've selected them, at least 3 weeks before your trip so we can coordinate with any other visiting schools.

Things to note:

- High ropes and Texas living History will take 1 full 3hr activity block (2-3 classes)
- All activities are included except horseback rides ($15/person additional charge)
- There may be other schools on property at the same time, we do our best to make sure all groups have their privacy. Only your school will be at an activity at a time but you might see other campers in passing

Activity Groups

- Before your trip, you will divide your students into smaller learning groups to rotate through all activities.
- One adult chaperone (from your school) must be present with each group during activities.
- Group sizes are between 8-15 students depending on the number of instructors and chaperones you have with your group. If you are unsure of how many groups you will have, please reach out to us.
- Include the student's group number on the **Master Spreadsheet** so we can easily find your students in the event of an emergency

****If there are any known learning challenges, physical limitations or anything particular you think would be helpful for our instructors to know, please notify us in advance or include it in the master spreadsheet.**

DISCOVERY PROGRAM OPTIONS

SCIENCE

AQUATIC EXPLORATIONS

Collection, observation, and analysis of pond inhabitants. Key Concepts: adaptation, cycles, food chain/ web, succession. For older student groups (7^{th}-12^{th}) the addition of chemical water tests and experiments can be conducted.

CONSERVATION ECOLOGY

Students explore the human impact on the environment—topics: erosion control, sustainable agriculture, natural resource consumption, solid waste management, etc.

ORGANIC GARDENING & BOTANY

Plant, weed, compost, and learn sustainable off-grid ways to grow food and resources. Learn the structures and functions of plants and how they operate within an ecosystem. *(Recommended for spring semester only).*

FOREST ECOLOGY

Exploratory, experimental, dramatic, and sensory activities in a piney wood/ hardwood forest. Key concepts: habitat, community, niche, interdependency, cycles, adaptation.

SOCIAL STUDIES

ARCHAEOLOGY

Students acquire hands-on experience at a dig site where they learn the terminology, tools, and techniques used by archaeologists to uncover our shared human history.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

An overview of the prehistory of Texas, archaeological principles, and Native American cultures of Texas Indigenous tribes from the panhandle to the coast. Class topics and activities range from storytelling to games and art.

THE TEXAS LIVING HISTORY EXPERIENCE

An outdoor dramatization representing life in the Texas Territory during the Revolutionary Period (1835–1836). Students participate with the staff to perform this production, taking the role of historic Texan figures. NOTE: One adult chaperone must be provided per small group of students for supervision and guidance on the trail. This experience takes 1 full activity block.

ART

ART IN NATURE

Learn about and collect natural resources from the woods to use in your creative endeavors. Activities might include making natural tempera paints, building fairy houses, or creating nature-inspired masterpieces.

LITERATURE IN NATURE/NATURE JOURNALING

Students will take time outdoors to tune in and let nature inspire them. Hear words of wisdom from past poets and writers who were also inspired by nature, and try your own hand at creative writing, journaling, and self-expression.

ANIMAL STUDIES

ENTOMOLOGY
Collection, classification, identification, and analysis of insects. Activities related to the study of characteristics of insects, metamorphosis, and the important role insects play in the environment. Note: insect collection and variety may be dependent upon season or weather.

HERPETOLOGY
View and handle an eclectic mix of various reptiles and amphibians. Familiarize students with herpetology classifications, their roles in the environment, extraordinary adaptations, and the differences between venomous and non-venomous species.

MAMMALOGY
Students explore the characteristics of mammals and participate in activities that teach them about the range of adaptations and skills that mammals have developed for their different lifestyles.

ORNITHOLOGY
Hawks, owls, eagles, oh my! Students participate in activities that help them understand bird behavior and adaptations, like putting their grip strength or wingspan to the test, and will even get to see our live birds of prey up close.

NIGHT ACTIVITIES

CAMPFIRE
Relax, laugh, perform, and socialize by firelight. Our staff tells stories, leads skits and songs which involve the students. Students perform skits in their small groups.

NIGHT HIKE
A sensory hike in the dark that provides students with the opportunity to safely explore and become comfortable with the nocturnal world through a guided experience.

ASTRONOMY
Explore the cosmos! Students will learn about the stars and the universe through storytelling and observation. If skies do not allow for telescope viewing, alternate indoor options are available.

CITIES
Short for “necessities”, this fun nighttime game which introduces nocturnal animal behavior is played in an open field. Students navigate without flashlights in the dark to find special resources.

OWL PROWL
Guided by their instructor, students will use bird calls played on a loudspeaker at prime birding locations to see if they can get a response or call in flighted nocturnal creatures, such as the barred, screech, and great horned owls.

CAMPSITE GAMES
Looking to stay close to home base? Play interactive games right at the comfort of your own campsite with fun activities led by our instructors.

ADVENTURE

ARCHERY
Students will learn the basics of a bow and arrow via the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Trained instructors will assist students in learning the steps to archery success and give them ample time to progress to a bullseye! **Ages 8 and up**

CANOEING
An adventurous opportunity to develop cooperative skills while on the water with friends! Learn how to navigate in tandem with 2-3 riders per boat. Life vests are provided and required at all times on the lakefront.

INITIATIVES
Students participate in group-oriented problem-solving activities. With emphasis on cooperation and communication skills, students will work as a team to accomplish tricky tasks.

LOW CHALLENGE COURSE
A series of activities on the low challenge course that build trust in one another and a feeling of teamwork in accomplishing a goal. Emphasis on trust, teamwork, problem-solving, and encouragement. A trained instructor facilitates the experience, including safety instructions and follow-up discussions that will help the group transfer their experience to their everyday lives.

HIGH ROPES COURSE
Students embark on the adventure of a lifetime on one of our high ropes courses! From soaring ziplines to scaling rock walls, students will gain the confidence to step out of their comfort zone to new heights. **Ages 8 and up, weight limit 250lbs**

HORSEBACK RIDES
Take a 1-hour trail ride through our scenic piney woods, followed by some time in our petting zoo to visit our pigs, goats, and donkeys. Beginner riders welcome! An additional $15/rider fee will be charged, subject to availability. **Ages 8 and up**

ORIENTEERING
Learn the history of navigation by stars, land, and sea, and test your own aptitude. Exercising their newly acquired skills in the use of a map and compass, students will navigate through the woods on our orienteering course to decode a secret message.

OUTDOOR LIVING SKILLS
Can you survive? Put it to the test in OLS! Learn how to build a shelter, forage for food, build fire, and survive in the wilderness. This session promotes group cohesion and relational development. **Activity focus dependent upon time schedule**

3-hour time blocks are usually a combination of 2-3 classes; for example, canoeing and orienteering. High Ropes course and Texas Living History activities will require a full 3-hour time block.

Please note: Some activities may have age or weight limitations due to safety.

Long Day Trip Sample Schedule

	DAYONE	
	9:00-9:30 Arrival	
MORNING BLOCK	*Orientation & bathrooms* **Activities 9:30-12:30–** Canoeing, Aquatics and Outdoor living skills	
12:30 PM	**Lunch**	
AFTERNOON BLOCK	**Activities 1:30-4:30–** Archery, Team building games and Forest ecology **4:30** Skit Prep **4:45-5:45** Free time (supervised by school chaperones)	Your Instructors: 1.
5:45 PM	**Dinner**	
EVENING ACTIVITIES	**6:30** Night Hike **7:00** Campfire with s'mores and Closing **8:00** Depart from the Pavilion	

Sample Short Day Trip Schedule

	DAY ONE	
	9:00 am arrival	
MORNING BLOCK	*Bathroom break and Orientation* **9:15-12:15– (2-3) Activities** Example– Aquatic studies, Outdoor living skills and Canoes	
12:15PM	Lunch	
AFTERNOON BLOCK	**1:00-2:45 (1-2)Activities** *(time can be adjusted if earlier departure time is needed)* Example- Archery 3:00 Departure	Your Instructors: 1.