

HAPPY campers

Ten Great Camp Sites in and Around West Houston

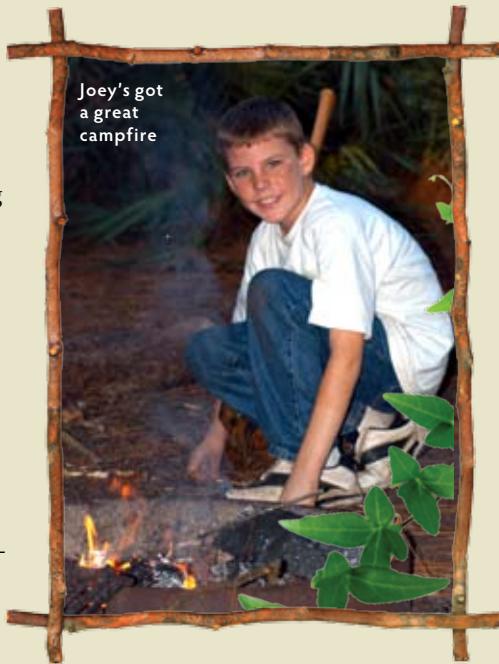
"The stars at night are big and bright....deep in the heart of Texas." How do we know for sure unless we take the time to stop and gaze at the sky once in awhile? Now that the school year is over, what better way to reconnect with the family than a Texas camping adventure?

Whether you're going for the day or for a week, or a weekend, you're sure to bring home a few family memories along with all those mosquito bites. So turn off the ipods, leave the portable DVD Players at home, and try an old-fashioned sing-a-long on your way to one of these close-to-home camping destinations.

Brazos Bend State Park

21901 FM 762
Needville, TX
979-553-5101

The close proximity of this park makes it a great spot for a day trip or an overnight camping trip. Park visitors can enjoy activities including camping, hiking, biking, equestrian trails, picnicking, and fishing. This is a great spot to see birds, insects, and...alligators!



Stephen F. Austin State Park and San Felipe State Historic Site

P.O. Box 125
San Felipe, TX
979-885-3613

Visitors enjoy fishing, camping, hiking, picnicking, panning for gold, and the nature and historical sites on over 660 acres in beautiful Austin County.

Galveston Island State Park

14901 FM 3005
Galveston, TX
409-737-1222

This state park is located on the west end of Galveston Island. Visit here to enjoy beach swimming, hiking, mountain bike riding, bird watching, and more.

Sheldon Lake State Park & Environmental Learning Center

15315 Beaumont Highway (Business 90) at Park Road 138
Houston, TX
281-456-2800

Sheldon Lake State Park is located in Northeast Harris County. It has over 2,800 acres of outdoor education and recreation. This is a great spot to view wildlife and do some fishing.

Village Creek State Park

P.O. Box 8565
Lumberton, TX
409-755-7322

Located 10 miles north of Beaumont, Village Creek is a popular flat water, canoe float stream. Activities include camping, picnicking, swimming (1 mile hike to sandbar swimming area), hiking, fishing, nature study, and bird watching offered.

Lake Livingston State Park

300 Park Road 65
Livingston, TX 77351
936-365-2201

This park contains over 600 acres along beautiful Lake Livingston. Visitors enjoy

continued...



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Keeping Cool During Summer Fun

- ★ Popsicles are a great and tasty way for kids and adults alike to stay hydrated in the summer heat.
- ★ Wearing hats keeps the sun off of the face and ears and helps prevent sun burn.
- ★ Water sprays can be put in ice chests. Get a cheap spray bottle with a mist setting and add essential oils for a nice scent.
- ★ Avoid direct sunlight during the hottest hours of the day. Find a shady spot for a long lunch, nap, or quiet reading time.
- ★ Wear clothes made with natural fibers that allow your skin to breathe.
- ★ Make sure to drink a lot of water and stay hydrated. Carry an ice chest with you filled with drinks if possible.
- ★ For shorter periods in the sun, wear a lighter sun screen. Try spray or sun block that doesn't feel caked on the skin.
- ★ Personal battery-operated fans can help cool off the face, and kids love them!

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camping, picnicking, mountain biking, nature study, fishing, boating, and equestrian activities. Lake Livingston State Park also has a swimming pool open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.



Haleigh and Alanna take turns on the swings

Huntsville State park

P.O. Box 508
Huntsville, TX
936-295-5644

Huntsville State Park adjoins with Sam Houston National Forest. This heavily wooded area is great for nature study, bird watching, and hiking. The park also offers camping, hiking, biking, boating, and guided horseback trail rides. Boat and hydro bike rentals are available.

Lake Whitney State Park

Whitney, TX 76692
254-694-3793

Lake Whitney State Park, located outside of Waco, offers shaded camp sites to help beat the heat. Other activities include mountain biking, picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving, and water skiing.

KL Ranch Camp

5300 River Road
New Braunfels, TX 78132
830-625-3038

KL Ranch Camp offers camp sites right on the beautiful Guadalupe river. The grounds are well kept, but are not pet friendly. Tube



Photo by Jimmy Kall

rentals and shuttles are available for float trips and river play. There are also great swimming areas that are ideal for kids.

Inks Lake State Park

3630 Park Road 4 West
Burnet, TX 78611
512-793-2223

Inks Lake enjoys almost constant lake levels, so drought does not affect water activities. Visitors can enjoy camping, backpacking, hiking, golf, swimming, boat-

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GE-39188(a)(v) (3/07)

Jessica loves camping near Katy



Don't Forget the Pets!

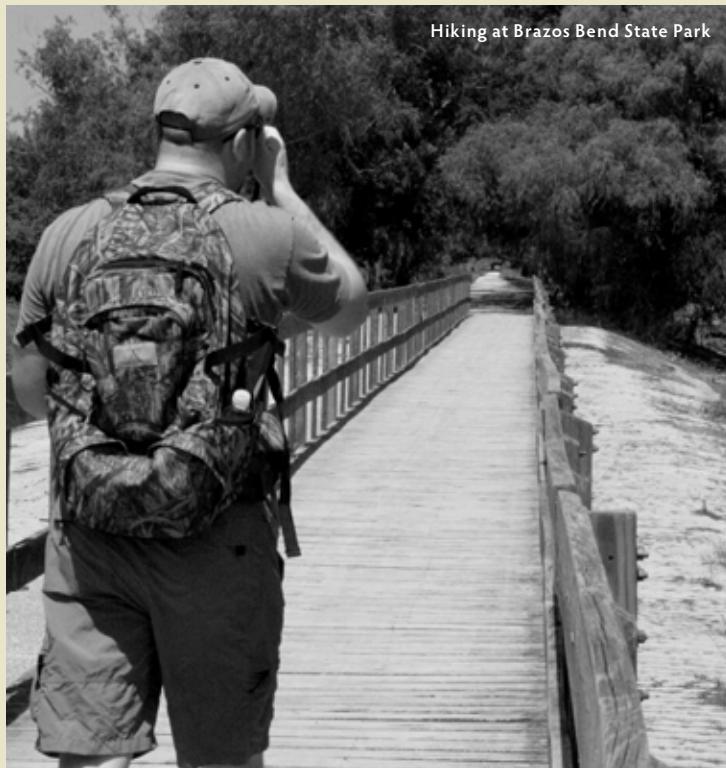
- ✓ Make sure all pets have enough water to stay hydrated—especially if they are primarily outdoors.
- ✓ Be sure that outdoor pets have a shady spot where they can escape the heat and relax.
- ✓ Small plastic pools can offer a great way for your pet to take a dip and keep cool.
- ✓ Many of the state parks are pet friendly, so bring your canine friend along to share in the adventure!

ing, water skiing, scuba diving, and fishing, even in the hottest and driest months of the summer.

For more great camping spots visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Ashley Robbins grew up in Katy and now lives here with her dog, Truck, and cat, Abby. She is an English teacher at Morton Ranch High School.

Photo by Ashley Robbins



Hiking at Brazos Bend State Park

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An illustration for "Swampy's Cajun Shack". It features a group of cartoon animals including alligators, frogs, and a chef lobster. The text includes:

SWAMPY'S CAJUN SHACK

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