



**RGV Youth Preparedness Camp  
Camp Thicket – Weslaco, TX  
June 18 – 22, 2017**

Welcome! You have been selected to attend the 2017 Rio Grande Valley Youth Preparedness Camp. This event will take place at Camp Thicket in Weslaco, TX on June 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. This packet contains important information, please read it carefully. If for any reason you (or any of the youth members of your group) can no longer attend camp, please contact me immediately.

In addition to general details about the 2017 RGV Youth Preparedness Camp, this packet also contains the RGV Youth Preparedness Code of Conduct which must be signed by each participating member. **Do not mail this form to our office.** Please bring your entire group's signed Codes of Conduct to registration on June 18.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to contact me by email at [rstubbs@weslacotx.gov](mailto:rstubbs@weslacotx.gov) or by phone at (956) 648-7974. I am extremely excited for camp and look forward to working with all of the youth and adult sponsors that will be participating in our RGV Youth Preparedness Camp.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Stubbs", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Stubbs, Lieutenant  
Public Education  
Weslaco Fire/EMS Dept.

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## **The Three Components of the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp**

- 1. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training** – All camp participants (including the adult sponsor) receive the full basic CERT course complete with certification. The basic CERT program is delivered as one component of camp in an effort to educate youth about disaster preparedness and provide them the skills they need to support local first responders in an emergency situation, if needed. This training includes lessons on fire safety, basic first aid, search and rescue, incident command system (ICS), and disaster psychology, among others. In addition to classroom-based lessons, youth are given ample opportunity to practice their skills through hands-on activities, tabletop discussions, and exercises. The CERT training culminates in a large full-scale exercise in which youth allocate resources, attend to live role playing victims, and interact with real first responders. The goal of this aspect of camp was to enhance the local community response and recovery capabilities as well as educate other community members on how to prepare for local hazards.
  - 2. Community Specific Action Planning** – Each group will develop a community action plan aimed at preparing their local community. This action plan is a project related to school and/or community preparedness that the group and their adult sponsor will implement in their community when they returned home from camp. During this five day planning process, groups will develop an objective, identify what is needed to achieve that objective, define the steps needed to complete the objective, and create a presentation to summarize the main points of their plan. The action planning component of camp ultimately facilitates preparedness activities in local communities through our youth.
  - 3. Leadership Development**– Camp participants also participate in leadership development activities. These activities are aimed at empowering youth to lead preparedness in their community. Participants will be given opportunities to present to large groups, speak publically, and lead activities throughout the five days. Leadership development is an important aspect of camp because it prepares participants to assume a leadership role in their community, which is necessary for them to be successful in responding to a disaster situation as well implementing their community action plan.
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## Important Camp Information

### CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION

Registration will be between **2:00-3:00 pm**. When arriving on site, groups should proceed directly to registration at the **North Complex Dining Hall**. Groups should pull up to the building, unload their belongings, and check-in as a team. At this time, each participant will receive their dorm assignment. Camp staff will then direct participants to their dorms where they can unpack and relax until the opening session at 3:15 PM. **All participants must arrive by 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 18, 2017 and stay the entire length of camp.** Campers and adult sponsors are not permitted to leave campus for any reason due to the busy camp program. Please see the enclosed tentative agenda for the 2017 RGV Youth Preparedness Camp.

### Camper or Sponsor Substitutions

If one of your campers or sponsors can no longer attend camp, find a substitute for the camper or sponsor as soon as possible. We have paid for a predetermined number of participants upfront, based on the number of registrations received. It is easiest to substitute a male for a male or a female for a female due to housing configurations. Ask your substitute to fill out a completed registration form as soon as possible and submit that form to us so that we can send them a confirmation packet as soon as possible.

### THINGS YOU SHOULD BRING TO CAMP

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed Code of Conduct   | <input type="checkbox"/> Casual, comfortable, and appropriate summer clothes and shoes (there will be a lot of walking and many hills!) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A laptop or tablet computer (OPTIONAL)  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linens: twin-size bed sheets (including fitted sheet), blanket, pillow, towel, and wash rag   | <input type="checkbox"/> One pair of pants, a long sleeve shirt, and closed-toe shoes (a cap is optional)                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries – soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shower shoes (a shower tote to carry these items would be helpful but is not required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alarm Clock and Flashlight   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunblock and bug repellent  |   |

### In Case of Emergency

In the event of an emergency, you should dial 911 immediately. Additionally, Rich Stubbs, RGV Youth Preparedness Camp Coordinator, can be reached at 956.648.7974.

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### *Expectations of Adult Sponsors*

1. **Participate** in all activities throughout the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp
2. **Be responsible for your camp team** and make sure that all campers are participating in all activities
3. Be sure each member of your camp team is in his or her dorm room from the **nightly curfew** through the morning
4. **Do not leave campus** with or without campers at any time unless there is an emergency and you have written permission from the Camp Coordinator before leaving
5. Make sure your campers follow the **Code of Conduct** and monitor their dress to make sure it is appropriate

### *The Role of Adults in the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp*

The RGV Youth Preparedness Camp is designed and delivered using a youth-led, adult-assisted process. A youth-led, adult assisted model is one where youth participants are essentially the decision makers and the adults act in a supportive role. For example, youth should be the creators of the community action plan. Adult sponsors should monitor the development and implementation of the action plan by giving their input, suggestions, or responding to a youth participants request for assistance. Youth, as much as possible, should be in charge. Adult sponsors should participate in all camp activities and lessons to ensure they can provide appropriate feedback when it is requested.

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**TURN THIS FORM IN AT REGISTRATION  
DO NOT MAIL**

**RGV Youth Preparedness Camp Code of Conduct**

I \_\_\_\_\_, as a RGV Youth Preparedness Camp Participant, agree to conduct myself in a manner that will be a credit to me, the Weslaco Fire/EMS Dept., RGV Youth Preparedness Camp, my community and/or school, and location where the Camp will be held. Therefore, I will:

- obey any and all guidelines issued by the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp staff and/or Camp Thicket staff;
- demonstrate cooperation and respect to the members of the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp Staff, volunteers, sponsors, campers, and Camp Thicket staff;
- show respect for the rights, privacy, and property of others;
- treat all people with dignity and respect;
- be honest and maintain open communications in order to address problems and concerns as they arise;
- take responsibility for my personal property;
- take responsibility for my personal safety by traveling in pairs and/or groups;
- comply with meeting schedule of RGV Youth Preparedness Camp, including events, meals, and quiet hours;
- not throw things from open windows or cause damage to RGV Youth Preparedness Camp or Camp Thicket property;
- not possess or use any alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs during the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp, unless prescribed by a physician (all prescriptions should be reported to camp medic);
- not engage in sexual intimacy while attending the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp;
- not leave the premises of Camp Thicket without written approval from the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp Coordinator.

**In addition, I understand that:**

- members of the opposite sex are not allowed in each other's rooms/dorms except during meeting times designated by RGV Youth Preparedness Camp staff;
- violation of the Code of Conduct will be considered grounds for dismissal from the Camp; and
- if dismissal occurs, any additional costs resulting from the early return home shall be borne by and be the responsibility of the participant or his/her parent or guardian.

Also, I grant to the Weslaco Fire/EMS Department, RGV Youth Preparedness Camp its representatives, partner organizations and employees the right to take photographs/videos of me and my property in connection with the RGV Youth Preparedness Camp. I authorize the Weslaco Fire/EMS Department, RGV Youth Preparedness Camp and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that the Weslaco Fire/EMS Department and RGV Youth Preparedness Camp may use such photographs/videos of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 21)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**RGV Youth Preparedness Camp Agenda**  
Camp Thicket, Weslaco, TX – June 18-22, 2017

<b>Day 1 – Sunday, June 18</b>	
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Camp Registration & Check-In
3:15 – 4:00 pm	Welcome and Introductions
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Camp Overview and Team Building
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Dinner
6:30 – 8:00 pm	Disaster Preparedness, Safety, and Personal Protective Equipment
8:30 – 10:00 pm	Meet & Greet/Hangout/Games
10:00 pm	In Dorms
11:00 pm	Lights Out

<b>Day 2 – Monday, June 19, 2017</b>	
8:00 – 8:45 am	
9:00 – 10:45 am	Community Action Planning: Developing a Clear Objective
10:45 – 12:00 pm	Size- Up Process
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 – 2:15 pm	Fire Safety
2:15 – 4:00 pm	Fire Extinguisher Exercise
4:15 – 5:15 pm	Terrorism
5:15 – 6:15 pm	Dinner
6:30 – 9:30 pm	Disaster Medical Operation & Exercise
9:45 – 10:30 pm	Incident Command System PBJ Exercise
11:00 pm	In Dorms
12:00 am	Lights Out

<b>Day 3 – Tuesday, June 20</b>	
8:00 – 8:45 am	
9:00 – 10:15 am	Community Action Planning: Identifying Individuals and Resources
10:20 - 12:00 pm	Disaster Psychology
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 – 3:30 pm	Incident Command System
3:30 – 5:00 pm	Incident Command System Event Planning
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Dinner
6:15 – 7:45 pm	Search and Rescue
7:45 – 8:15 pm	Prepare for Night Search and Rescue
8:15 – 10:00 pm	Night Search and Rescue Exercise
10:30 pm	In Dorms
12:00 am	Lights Out

<b>Day 4 – Wednesday, June 21</b>	
8:00 – 8:45 am	
9:00 – 10:30 am	Community Action Planning: Defining the Steps You Will Take
10:30 - 12:00 pm	Interior Search and Rescue Exercise
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 4:00 pm	Cribbing
4:15 – 5:00 pm	Triage and Exercise
5:15 – 6:00 pm	Dinner
6:30 – 8:00 pm	Community Action Planning: Pulling it All Together
8:00– 10:30pm	Evening Fun Time
11:30pm	In Dorms
12:00am	Lights Out

<b>Day 5 – Thursday, June 22</b>	
8:00 – 8:45 am	Breakfast
9:00 – 9:45 am	Final Review and Exercise Preparation
9:45 - 11:15 am	Final Exercise
11:15 - 12:00 pm	Final Exercise Debrief
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Community Action Planning: Presenting Your Plan
2:30 – 6:00 pm	Special Event
6:00 - 7:30 pm	Pack Up / Clean Up
7:30 - 8:30 pm	Graduation / Closing Session / Check Out

TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

# World Birding Center Estero Llano Grande State Park



## Legend:

- WBC Visitor's Center
- Texas State Parks Store
- Viewing Deck
- Classroom
- Rest Rooms
- Puraque Event Center
- Full Kitchen
- Event Room
- Rest Rooms
- Butterfly Garden
- Camp Thicket Group Area
- North and South Complex**
- Bunks
- Full Kitchen
- Meeting Rooms
- Rest Rooms and Showers
- Warbler Hall
- Meeting Hall, Rest Rooms
- Parking
- Rest Rooms
- Wheelchair Accessible Trails
- Camino de Aves
- Spoonbill Trail
- Wader's Trail
- Observation Deck
- Levee Access Point (non-ADA)
- Hiking Trails
- Pavilion
- Butterfly Garden
- Observation Deck
- Maintenance Area

**WORLD BIRDING CENTER**  
Events and News  
[www.worldbirdingcenter.org](http://www.worldbirdingcenter.org)

**Texas State Parks Store**  
T-shirts, caps and one-of-a-kind gift items are available at the WBC Visitor's Center building.

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Weslaco, TX 78596  
(956) 565-3919