



GENERAL INFO

Dates: June 2-6, 2025

Location: Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose, Texas (Riverbend.camp)

Speaker: Cory Butler

Worship Leader: Ben Donnely

Cost: \$279* through March 23rd

\$309* March 24th- May 18th

\$329* if space is available after May 18th

Family Pricing (for students attending Encounter Week only):

\$539* family max for students from the same household through March 12th

\$589* family max March 13th- May 18th

No family max available after May 18th

***Each registration requires a \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit**

To utilize Family Pricing, you will need a coupon code at payment

- *For families with 2 students, the coupon code is "familyof2"*
- *For families with 3 students, the coupon code is "familyof3"*
- *For families with 4 students, the coupon code is "familyof4"*

INSTRUCTIONS

To register for camp, go to fbca.org/Encounter and click on the registration link. **Our CampID is encounter2025.**

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

- Online Student Registration
- Time Away Form if applicable
- Payment for camp or Scholarship Application

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PARENT MEETING

We will have an optional, yet *highly encouraged*, Encounter Week Parent Meeting as we prepare for Encounter Week 2025. This will provide information to help you to know how to prepare for camp, how to pray for your student and for camp, and will allow opportunities for you encourage your student during camp.

Pre-Camp Parent Meetings

- Tuesday, May 27 at 7:00PM
First Baptist Arlington Sanctuary
300 S. Center St., Arlington

WHAT TO BRING

- twin size sheets/blanket or sleeping bag & pillow
- Bible & pen
- appropriate, comfortable clothing for 5 days
- athletic clothing for recreation (a Rec shirt will be provided)
- shoes/sandals (closed toe shoes required for some activities, including recreation)
- toiletries (throw some insect repellent in there!)
- towels (a couple would be great)
- swimsuit (check dress code before packing!)
- extra cash for the canteen & camp store (Encounter Week shirts, water bottles, sunglasses, etc.)
- a friend who doesn't go to our church or another church
- sunscreen (because you'll be in the sun a lot)
- a good attitude that will last all week!
- flashlight (it gets dark at night)
- a camera (you will not have your phone to take pictures)
- softball glove (if you are so inclined)

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- cell phones**
- any prank stuff
- drugs, alcohol*, tobacco products & e-cigarettes
- roller blades, bikes, scooters, H3's, ATV's, motocross bikes
- any type of weapon (firearms, guns or knives)
- fireworks or anything explosive
- cell phones**, MP3's, iPod's, CD players of any kind (take a break)
- bikinis or speedos
- whiney, grumpy, complaining attitude
- anything else that would take the focus off of what you are at camp for!

*Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs will result in immediate dismissal from Encounter Week 2024

****A Note on Cell Phones:**

Please **DO NOT BRING A CELL PHONE** with you. Cell phones are a needless distraction and create issues regarding liability for students, adults, churches, and Riverbend. Telephones are available at the camp or from adult leadership if you need to make a call home. Parents, if you need to contact your camper, please call Riverbend and a message will be delivered to the student. Our goal is to help create an environment with as few distractions as possible for all our students, to allow them to fully participate in gospel community, and to focus on what God teaches them throughout the week.

If your student has a phone, we'll hold on to it for them until we get back to the church on Friday. Riverbend has asked that we help them in protecting our campers by not allowing students to have cell phones with internet availability on campus. The following is a statement from their insurance provider:

The effort to protect a single camper from the reaction to a devastating text-message, or a photograph of an unsuspecting camper placed on the internet is reason enough to prohibit Internet availability of cell phones at camp. Parents who trust you and value your program will comply.

Thank you for helping us to provide the best possible atmosphere for our camp as well as to protect all our campers. If you have specific questions regarding cell phones, please contact the Camp Director, Kurt Krodle.

THINGS WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT

PLEASE READ OVER THIS LIST, GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF EACH ITEM, AND BE PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE EXPECTATIONS OF ENCOUNTER WEEK...

1. All Campers and Sponsors must maintain a good attitude. Attitude is the key to everything else!
2. All Campers must be ON TIME and participate in all services, activities (including Late Night), and meals (unless permission is given by a Dean or Camp Executive Staff).
3. If you aren't sure where to go or what to do... ask an adult!
4. Campers must remain in their dorms from "lights out" until 6:00am (unless permission is given by a Dean or Camp Executive Staff).
5. No girls in guys' cabins/no guys in girls' cabins! The only exception is while specific groups meet in the center meeting room of some cabins during Family or Church Group Time.
6. Students are expected to read and follow the dress code. Please respond quickly and cheerfully if a Dean or adult sponsor asks you to change clothes.
7. Shoes should always be worn outside the cabin.
8. Stay off of the cliffs - climbing on the rocks can result in serious injury!

9. No food should be taken from the Dining Hall. Please do not eat in the dorms - it creates a mess and attracts insects.
10. You are responsible for keeping all of your belongings ON or UNDER your bunk. You will be expected to keep your cabin and bathroom clean. Take care of your things and respect other campers' property.
11. Campers are NEVER allowed in the river - no exceptions! The result of going into the river is immediate dismissal from Encounter Week.
12. There will be no rough play permitted in the cabins, cafeteria, or worship center. Any property damage will be paid for by the student(s) responsible and his or her family.
13. A Camp Nurse will be available 24-hours-a-day for minor accidents and illnesses. If you feel sick or become injured, please tell an adult sponsor immediately.
14. Limit the use of shaving cream, toothpaste, and toilet paper to the restroom area. Do not administer these items to anyone or anything other than yourself. If you make a mess, clean it up.
15. The following items are not allowed at camp: cell phones, tablets, computers, knives, fireworks, firearms, radios, personal stereo devices, video games, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, water balloons, airsoft guns, or water guns. These will be confiscated by Deans or adult sponsors upon detection. Leave the games, weapons, and technology at home! ONLY Adult Sponsors are allowed to have cell phones at camp.
16. Campers and adults should not have any medication in cabins. All medication, prescription or over-the-counter, must be checked in at Check-In on Monday before we leave the church and will be dispensed by the Nurse while at Encounter Week.
17. Couples, please maintain a "hands off" policy and avoid any PDA (public display of affection). Save it until you get married.
18. Do not leave the Riverbend campus without the permission of the Deans or Camp Executive Staff (this includes leaving with your parents). We must know if you are planning to be picked up early via the *Camper Time Away Form*. Leaving the Riverbend campus without permission will result in the camper's immediate dismissal from camp.
19. Please do not tamper with the air conditioning controls. You can cause a problem for everyone! Turning the thermostat too high or too low can result in the unit malfunctioning.

DRESS CODE

Out of respect for Christ and each other, and because of fashion trends, we have established a dress code (similar to the AISD/MISD Dress Codes) at camp. Please keep the following guidelines in mind when shopping and/or packing for the week. The Deans of Women and Deans of Men will help make sure we are all following this agreement. Students who choose to violate these guidelines will have the choice of changing clothes or wearing something that is provided for them by the Camp Staff.

The dress code can be summarized with several key points:

- Dress appropriately for the occasion
- We ask that your tank tops, shirts, dresses, etc. have straps that are two fingers wide
- One-piece swimsuits or modest, appropriate two-piece
- If your clothing is distracting to others around you, you will be asked to change

SHIRTS AND BLOUSES:

Please do not wear shirts that have questionable or potentially offensive graphics, logos, or statements on them. It's not the best way to draw attention to yourself.

Wear appropriate shirts for daytime activities. Tank tops may be worn. A tank top is considered a sleeveless shirt with a strap width 2 fingers-wide or more.

Changes to your team recreation shirt must stay within dress code. If you cut your sleeves out, do not cut down the side of the shirt or you will be asked to wear a shirt underneath.

Shirts, tank tops, or blouses must have an appropriate neckline and cover the entire torso at all times, even in movement. No offense, but we don't want to see your stomach or undergarments.

SHORTS, SKIRTS AND DRESSES:

Appropriate short length for daytime activities – no short-shorts. No tight shorts; no “sagging” - we don't want to see your underwear.

Please be sure that any shorts, skirts, or dresses are at least the length of fingertips when fully extended by your side. **If you have to ask, it's probably too short.*

SWIMSUITS

Please wear an appropriate swimsuit that is secure and comfortable for water activities (diving, the Blob, etc.). Swimwear is only to be worn in the swimming pool area. Students must be fully clothed when traveling to and from the swimming pool or lakefront. If you have questions, please contact Chelsea Judkins (chelsea.judkins@fbca.org).

These guidelines are intended to help everyone have the best possible experience at Encounter Week. If you have any questions about the dress policy, please call the Youth Ministry Office or email Chelsea. We appreciate your help with this!

LATE NIGHTS

Each night at camp we end the day with a themed “**Late Night**” activity that includes drinks and snacks:

Monday – Jersey Night

Support your favorite team or school by showing up in your colors for “Jersey Night”! We’ll be outside at Rec Point and the rec fields with inflatables, tons of games, and a lot of fun. After a long day of travel and getting oriented to Encounter Week, we’ll have space to burn off some energy to finish off the first day of camp.

Tuesday – Luau Night

Make sure your Hawaiian shirt from last year fits, throw on that hula skirt, and let’s party at the pool! Once again, we will crown our “King/Queen/Monarch of Pain” at the annual *King of Pain Contest* (aka: belly flop contest). Rec Point, sand volleyball, Pickleball, Gaga, and the rec fields will also be open.

Wednesday – Dancing Through Life Silent Disco

Wednesday night we dance! Silent Disco returns with some old and some new playlists, an unforgettable night of dancing, costumes, and the best Late Night of 2025. Rec Point, sand volleyball, Pickleball, Gaga, and the rec fields will also be open.

Thursday – Street Party

On the last night of camp, we will spend time celebrating what God has done in our midst, then finish the night off with all the churches at our Street Party, which includes ice cream and music before we end the night with our annual fireworks show.

A FINAL WORD

I hope that you are as excited as we are about Encounter Week – we guarantee it to be worth your time, effort, and energy! This is the 56th year that our church has hosted camp at Riverbend Retreat Center – camp is a big part of our church and youth ministry's culture - we really do love camp. We trust this will be the most important, exciting week of the year – for me, personally, this is simply my favorite week every year!

There is a lot that will take place between now and then, but camp will be upon us before you know it and we want to help make sure that you are prepared. We will do everything we can to ensure that everyone has a great week – so show up on June 2 ready to have fun, meet new people, participate as part of a team, and learn more about following the Jesus Way.

Remember, this is a Christian camp. We don't expect everyone who participates to follow Jesus, but we do expect everyone who participates to respect our commitment to Christ and follow the guidelines for Encounter Week. A positive, flexible attitude is essential! While we want each individual to have a good experience, our greater responsibility is to the larger group.

Please look over and be familiar with *Things We Have an Understanding About* before we get to camp. These are not just "suggestions", they are requirements. Also, please look over the Dress Code and keep it in mind when you are shopping and packing for camp.

You can go to fbca.org/encounter to find the registration portal for Encounter Week. There you will complete all paperwork, Time Away forms, etc. and choose to pay online or in-person with cash or check. If you have a **food allergy, a special dietary need, or follow a special diet**, please visit BendFoodAllergy.org *no later than May 5* to submit a form and retrieve a copy of the planned menu. If you register after that date, please complete this form immediately upon registration. Riverbend's staff will work directly with each family to help with meals and meal planning.

The week of camp is full of all sorts of excitement – here is an overview of the schedule for the week:

Tuesday, May 27:

7:00pm Our Parent Meeting will take place inside the Sanctuary at First Baptist Arlington (300 S. Center St.). Our staff will provide information to help you pack for camp, we will give you an opportunity to complete a medication "dosage card" (early!), have an opportunity to pray for your student and for camp, and have stations for you to write and/or drop off notes that we will deliver to your student during camp.

Monday, June 2:

*12:30pm Please park at the Wade Building (301 S. Center St.) before crossing Center St to the South Commons at First Baptist Arlington (300 S. Center St.). First, drop your student's luggage at the north end of the building, near the Levitt Pavilion, and



then check-in at the tables in South Commons. Volunteers will be present to direct you. After checking-in, all medication must be checked-in at the Nurse's Table in the original packaging. If you did not turn in a "dosage card" at the parent meeting, one must be filled out on every camper taking prescription or over-the-counter medication prior to departure. If your student has medications to bring to camp, please verify that the information in the Parent Dashboard accurately reflects all meds being sent to camp. The buses will be designated by next fall's school grade, so get on a bus with your new grade on it.

*Eat lunch before you come or bring something to eat with you.

Friday, June 6:

12:00pm Return from camp. The buses will drop campers on South St., between the Sanctuary and the Levitt Pavilion, the same location that students loaded on Monday.

Sunday, June 8:

9:45am Youth Camp 2025 Party in Fellowship Hall
We'll have food, camp videos and awards.
Parents: please bring breakfast/brunch items to share if you can!

11:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary (wear your camp shirt)

I hope you will plan to be part of all the Encounter Week 2025 activities! This week has the potential to be a life-shaping event for each of us. Begin asking God now to prepare your heart for what He has for you. Be open to new people and new experiences. Expect God to do something miraculous in your life!

We realize that this is a lot of information to absorb, so let us know if something does not make sense or is not clear. Let us know how we can help you as you prepare for Encounter Week 2025 and make sure to call the Youth Ministry Office at 817.277.6353 if you have any questions!

To Make Him Famous,



Kurt A. Krodle
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