



GENERAL INFO

Dates: June 1-5, 2026

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

Speaker: Robert White

Worship Leader: DBU Chapel Worship

Cost: \$279* through March 22nd

\$309* March 23rd- May 17th

\$329* if space is available after May 17th

Family Pricing (for students attending Encounter Week only):

\$539* family max for students from the same household through March 22nd

\$589* family max March 23rd- May 17th

No family max available after May 17th

***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 encounter2026.**

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

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

CONTENTS

- Parent Meeting
- What to Bring
- What *NOT* to Bring
- Camp Rules
- Dress Code
- A Final Word

PARENT MEETING

We will have an optional, yet *highly encouraged*, Encounter Week Parent Meeting as we prepare for Encounter Week 2026. 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 to encourage your student during camp.

Pre-Camp Parent Meetings

- Tuesday, May 26 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
- 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 2026

****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, Chelsea Judkins.

CAMP RULES

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 cabins from Lights Out until 6:00am (unless permission is given by a Dean or Camp Executive Staff).
5. There are no girls in guys' cabins and no guys in girls' cabins! The only exception is while specific groups meet in the center meeting room of some cabins during Family Group or Church Group Time.

6. Students are expected to read and follow the dress code. All recreation and Late Night attire must follow dress code. Please respond quickly and respectfully 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 cabins - 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 turned in and dispensed by the Nurse while at Encounter Week.
17. Couples, please maintain a "hands off" policy and avoid any PDA (public display of affection).
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.
20. No campers may be in cabins unsupervised. Anytime campers are present in cabins, at least one adult and at least two campers must be present.

STRICT NO-VISITOR POLICY

To ensure facility security and uninterrupted programming, Riverbend Retreat Center strictly prohibits unauthorized visitors during camp sessions. Authorized visitors must have completed registration, background checks, and all required safety training (Child Abuse and Emergency Action Plan). Please respect the staff who are instructed to deny entry to anyone not meeting these requirements.

DRESS CODE

Out of respect for Christ and each other, 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
- Please wear a one-piece swimsuit or a modest, appropriate two-piece. A swimsuit should securely cover the chest and torso.
- 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.

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. Midriff and undergarments should not be visible.

SHORTS, SKIRTS AND DRESSES:

Appropriate short length for daytime activities – no short-shorts, no tight shorts, no “sagging.” Underwear should not be visible.

Please be sure that any shorts, skirts, or dresses are a modest, appropriate length. **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.). Students are always welcome to wear a dark colored tank top or T Shirt over their swimsuit. 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 – Glow in the Dark Night

Wear your favorite neon or glow attire! We'll be outside at Rec Point and the rec fields with 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 (or Queen!) of Pain at the annual belly flop contest. Rec Point, Sand Volleyball, Pickleball, Gaga, and the rec fields will also be open.

Wednesday – Tacky Prom Silent Disco

Wednesday night we dance! Silent Disco returns with some old and some new playlists (including a pop punk/alt rock list this year) and an unforgettable night of dancing. Throw on your best thrifted and tacky prom attire (within dress code) and get ready for the best Late Night of 2026. 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 we'll finish the night with music, ice cream, and fireworks.

A FINAL WORD

We hope that you are as excited as we are about Encounter Week! We are praying for all that God will do in our days together. This is the 57th 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 know that there's nothing magical about these five days each summer, *but* there is something powerful about setting aside distractions to come together and seek after God.

There are a lot of logistics that go into making camp happen. A lot will happen between now and then. Truly, we want every student to have a great experience, and we are earnestly working towards that. Show up on June 1 ready to have fun, make new friends, be 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 by following 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 the Camp Rules 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, 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 18 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 26:

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 1:

*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 your online registration accurately reflects all meds being sent to camp.

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

Friday, June 5:

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. Please be sure to pick up your meds from the Nurse before you leave!

Sunday, June 7:

9:45am Youth Camp 2026 Party in Fellowship Hall
We'll have food, camp videos and camper shout outs.
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 2026 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 2026 and make sure to call the Youth Ministry Office at 817.277.6353 if you have any questions!

Blessings,



Chelsea Judkins
Camp Director/Interim Youth Minister
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