

Adopt-A-Campsite Unit Guidebook



**For Use by Units
Adopting a Campsite
In the Texas Trails Council**

Dear Scouting Unit,

We at the Texas Trails Council are in need units and/or people who like to help out at Camp Tonkawa and Camp Billy Gibbons as our camps grows into the kind of camp that we all want it to be. We want our campsites to be that place that you can come and enjoy, a place of fellowship and respite and a place that can help grow and nurture your unit to be the best it can be.

How can you help improve a campsite?

- Clean the ground of debris and trash. Which gives the site a pristine beauty that will make us all proud
- Complete a conservation project in or around the campsite
- Cleanup/prepare the campfire ring(s)
- Trail maintenance and brush control
- Build Tent Platforms
- Repair and level the tent platforms making them safe and comfortable
- Build a gateway and entrance sign
- Repair or build a flag pole, tool rack and bulletin board
- Build picnic tables, log seating, and/or a shelter
- Improve the latrine
- Paint/Waterproof the tables
- Make a plaque telling the story of the name of the campsite
- Report to the Ranger any aspects of the site that need more attention and care

This is just the beginning of a list that ends only with your unit's creativity. In order to allow your unit's personal touch and still maintain a standard level of quality, we ask that you please work with the Camp Ranger and Property Committee before beginning a project. This will help ensure all projects align with the goals of Camp Tonkawa, Camp Billy Gibbons and the Texas Trails Council. Thank you for considering this adoption! Please review the information in this Guidebook and when you are ready to Adopt-a-Campsite, simply follow the directions in the section labeled... ***How does it work?***

Thank you for all you do for the scouts in your life and Happy Camping!!

Camp Ranger

Properties Committee Chairman

Bobby Goodson

Robin Walker

Adopt-A-Campsite Program

Purpose:

Maintaining excellent facilities for scouts and leaders is a top priority for Camp Tonkawa, Camp Billy Gibbons and the Texas Trails Area Council. This program will help the us achieve the goal of building and maintaining Camp Tonkawa and Camp Billy Gibbons and also help scouting units and their scouts reach their goals. This program will help instill a sense of ownership and pride in our Camps and campsites. It will encourage attendance at and use of our camp property. Being good stewards of our environment is a responsibility of all scout and this program will help improve the environmental health of our Camps and campsites. The projects will meet volunteer hour requirements for advancement, build skills and create a renewed sense of ownership and enthusiasm within the Pack, Troop, Ship or Crew.

What are the benefits for the Unit?

- You have the pleasure of having a summer campsite that is what you want it to be.
- You will strengthen your unit through fellowship and teamwork while learning important stewardship, building and conservation skills.
- Your Scouts could earn service hours towards advancement.

How does it work?

The first step is to contact the Texas Trails Council Property Committee, or Camp Ranger (Robert.goodson@scouting.org) to check availability of sites for adoption. If a site is available that your unit would like to adopt, and you agree with and are able to comply with the rules, terms and conditions outlined in the Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement, you will then review and sign the agreement. After your Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Texas Trails Council Property Committee, you will begin working with the Camp Ranger and/or Property Committee to begin work on your campsite. This program can be customized at the discretion of the Council Camp Ranger and Property Committee to include adopting other areas of camp such as buildings, trails, or program areas.

Conservation-minded:

Thousands of campers enjoy our Camps each year and considering the years of use Camp Tonkawa and Camp Billy Gibbons has sustained, this Agreement can help direct us in how we manage our campsites. Here are the ways continued use impacts our Camp and campsites:

1. Vegetative Impacts

- Loss of vegetation cover
- Compositional change
- Spread of non-native species
- Tree damage and root exposure
- Tree cutting and loss of regeneration
- Loss of shrubbery

2. Soil Impacts

- Loss of organic litter
- Loss of organic soil
- Soil compaction
- Decrease in soil moisture
- Soil erosion

3. Wildlife Impacts

- Habitat alteration
- Wildlife distribution and harassment
- Modification of wildlife behavior
- Displacement from food, water, and cover
- Reduced health and reproduction

4. Water Resource Impacts

- Increased turbidity and sedimentation
- Oil and gas from engines
- Soaps (phosphates)
- Fecal wastes (giardia)

5. Social Impacts

- Litter
- Aesthetics
- Loss of Wilderness and Isolation

These impacts are a departure from natural conditions and can alter the natural environment. These impacts can threaten resource protection and are expensive to repair. As you maintain and improve your campsite, here are conservation-minded ways you can help mitigate these impacts so that we can provide a pristine camping experience for generations of scouts to come:

- Control of Noxious Weeds (Knapweed, Hawkweed, thistles, scotch broom)
- Seeding and sowing of grass seed
- Erosion control
- Reforestation/Regeneration (plant/transplant trees, plant and care for a small nursery, close of unneeded areas and trails)
- Trail improvements (switchbacks, railings, bridges, signs, rest stops seats)
- Wildlife habitat construction (bat and bird houses, pocket meadows for deer bedding, brush piles for small animals)
- Brush free fire zones (clean up debris in forested areas, thinning, and pruning)

Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement

Unit “Adopting” the Campsite Agrees to:	Texas Trails Council Agrees to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the campsite to the specifications required by Camp Tonkawa, Camp Billy Gibbons and the Texas Trails Council • Dedicate at least (10)ten hours of work over (2)two workdays/weekends annually to perform maintenance, repairs and improvements to campsite repair/improvement. * • Understand and abide by the Terms and Conditions outlined in this Agreement which are in effect for one (1) year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Unit Number will be Displayed on the Campsite Sign as Adopted by Unit. <i>(e.g. Adopted by T/P 230)</i> • Provide the unit with weekend use of Shower House at Camp Tonkawa and Camp Billy Gibbons at NO Charge during the Workdays/Weekends • Give unit first priority for use of the “adopted” campsite during Scouts BSA Resident, Cub Resident or Webelos Resident Camp.** • The Units will not Have first priority for the “adopted” Campsite during Haunted Forest.***

*Units must schedule **At least two workdays/weekends** the unit is going to work with this Agreement. For assistance on scheduling work with Camp Ranger for the best workdays/weekends. **The work needs to be done between September 1 and May 31.**

The use of the adopted campsite for Boy Scout Resident or Webelos Resident Camp can be guarantee. Every effort will be made to honor this request. **A unit waives their priority for adopted campsite if their Scouts BSA Resident or Webelos Resident Camp reservation is not in by April 1st of the summer camp year.

*****NO Unit will have Priority on Adopted Campsites during Haunted Forest due to the large amount of people camping and attending that Event.**

Additional terms and conditions for Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement:

- Adoption of a campsite does not imply any form of ownership or special privilege or legal rights. Camp Tonkawa and Camp Billy Gibbons, including campsites, is owned and operated by the Texas Trails Council.
- **Units that have adopted a campsite are required to follow the standard procedures for reserving the use of the campsite for weekend camping, summer camp, and all other occasions.**
- All BSA safety rules and standards, as well as camp-related rules, must always be adhered to. All equipment and tools will be in safe working condition. Power equipment will be operated by properly trained and authorized adults. Scouts will not be allowed to climb above shoulder height. Chainsaw use is prohibited except for individuals who meet the requirements outlined in BSA policy 20-136 and with Camp Ranger approval.
- Misconduct by unit participants while at Camp; including but not limited to violation of these rules, terms, and conditions or vandalism, may result in termination of the Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement.
- The Texas Trails Council is not responsible for damages to the campsite done by users of the Camp.
- The Texas Trails Council maintains the right to relocate, remove or rename a campsite.
- All projects must be pre-approved by the Texas Trails Council Properties Committee and the Council Camp Ranger.
- Units are encouraged to supply materials for use in projects, provided that the materials meet the requirements specified and approved by the Council Camp Ranger and Properties Committee. The Texas Trails Council may supply some of the necessary project materials, provided the unit gives adequate notice of the project.
- The Texas Trails Council reserves the right to discontinue this program at any time.

Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement

Our unit will adopt _____ campsite at Camp Tonkawa/Camp Billy Gibbons (Circle one) and plan on working on the campsite during _____.

We agree to the guidelines stated in the Adopt-A-Campsite Agreement. This Agreement was reviewed and approved by the unit committee on this date _____.

_____/_____/_____
Signature of Contact Person Date

_____/_____/_____
Signature of Committee Chair Date

Turn in to Texas Trails Council Office for Approval By Council Camp Ranger and Properties Committee.

Unit Type & Number: _____

Contact Person & Unit Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number (H/C/W): _____

Email Address: _____

Texas Trails Council Use Only

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____

Approved By: _____ Date: _____

Notified Unit: _____ Date: _____