

# What to Expect at Purpose Week

Updated for 2026

We are so excited that your group will be joining us for Purpose Week this year! We know going to a new youth camp can be a daunting experience, so here are some tips to help you as you prepare for camp this summer.

## Camp Schedule

A printable version of our camp schedule can be found at [purposeweek.com/leaderinfo](https://purposeweek.com/leaderinfo). Schedules will be provided on the back of ID badges as well as on the back of camper books and in the Leader Packets at check-in.

## Camp Rules

A printable version of our camp rules can be found at [purposeweek.com/leaderinfo](https://purposeweek.com/leaderinfo). We ask that you familiarize yourself and your group with our rules prior to packing and arriving at camp. Rules will be gone over with leaders at our Leader Meeting and with the students at Student Orientation on the first day.

## Suggested Attire

Please review the camp rules dress code prior to camp with your students and sponsors. Some attire suggestions to keep in mind while packing:

- Assume all REC activities will include water. Students are to be dressed for REC for morning worship as they will be dismissed straight to the REC field from there.
- Everyone is required to wear a dark colored t-shirt at the pool. This includes sponsors.
- Evening worship dress is casual.
- Thursday after lunch a group photo is taken of everyone at camp; please save your camp t-shirt to be worn at this time. Extra shirts may be purchased at the Purpose Week Table near the Tabernacle if you would like to have an extra.

## Registration and Check-In

When you arrive at camp you will send your group leader to the Camp Office to complete registration with the ETBE staff. This is where you will bring background checks and other paperwork, as well as complete payments and deliver any medications to the camp nurse. They will also give you dorm assignments here.

## **Registration and Check-In Continued**

When you have completed registration, you will go to the Tabernacle Foyer across the road from the Camp Office to check in with our Purpose Week team and receive all your camp goodies. You will receive a Leader Packet and shirts, books, and ID badges and lanyards for all campers and sponsors here.

If you are missing any items or require a change to any items given you can come to this location to get those fixed anytime prior to evening worship on Monday, otherwise see Lizz for help during camp.

## **Church Group Times**

Our scheduled church group times are meant to be intentional. The time scheduled prior to evening worship is meant for your group to gather and prepare for worship together. You are not required to meet at your assigned location for this period, but we suggest choosing a location for your group to meet for this time near the tabernacle.

Church group times after evening worship are meant for discussing the message and anything from the day as well as answering any questions.

Your church will be assigned a location to meet for church group times at check-in. Locations are assigned to attempt to guarantee each group a location with air conditioning available, however smaller groups may have to share large locations such as the cafeteria or tabernacle to make sure everyone has space. You are welcome to use any outdoor location not being used on campus for this purpose. We do ask that groups are mindful of sharing spaces and not disturbing other groups near them while planning activities or when dismissing early.

## **Sponsor Meetings**

Each morning at 7:45 we ask for one sponsor from each group to meet in the dining hall for a sponsor meeting. This time is when we address any concerns or needs for the day as well as check in with your groups for how we can make your experience better and be praying for your groups through the day.

## **Devotional Time**

There is a dedicated time in our schedule for a devotional each morning and a camp devotional is provided in the camp books. While this devotional is not mandatory, we highly encourage all students and sponsors to spend this time in God's word. This time is intended for individual devotionals rather than as a group; however, your group may do with this as you wish. We do ask groups to convene near their church group time locations to help keep distractions to a minimum for others during this time.

## **Breakout Classes**

During the afternoons from 1:00 pm to 1:40 pm and 1:50 pm to 2:30 pm we have scheduled breakout classes for students and sponsors. These classes are not optional, and we ask that you make sure all students plan to attend a class. Tuesday and Wednesday will have multiple classes to pick from on various topics. The breakout titles and a synopsis of each will be available in the camp books you receive upon check-in.

On Thursday we will have a camp-wide Q & A session in the Tabernacle for our breakout class. Questions for this Q & A may be submitted ahead of time using the drop box in the Dining Hall throughout the week. While questions will be vetted before the Q & A session our intention is to not disregard any questions as silly or stupid and rather have our panel answer all questions.

## **REC and Color Groups**

Campers and sponsors are all assigned a color group for REC times. These color assignments are usually sent out to groups at least a week prior to camp. Color teams are built to allow students the opportunity to meet new people and will not be the same for church groups. Boys and girls will be on different teams. Color teams will have the opportunity to make a team flag and practice team cheers on Monday during REC that they will use throughout the week.

During REC students will be led by the Dallas Baptist University REC Team to participate in various activities. Please assume all REC activities following Monday will involve water.

Please make sure your sponsors are aware they are expected to be at and participate in REC time in whatever way they are able. We understand everyone has different abilities, but we ask that even if they are unable to get in the activities with the students that they would interact and cheer for their teams from the sidelines rather than leave the area for personal time.

## **Spirit Chicken Award**

During REC time our staff will be paying attention to which team exhibits the most positive team spirit and will pick a team to be the winner of the “Spirit Chicken.” The team that wins will be given custody of the rubber chicken toy for the day and will get to cut the line at dinner. Typically, teams will add some kind of appropriate decoration to the chicken before it is given to another team the next day. At the end of the week a team will be chosen to win for the entire week and will get to decide who will take the chicken home.

## **Camp Champ**

During the week students will be competing for Camp Champ points through their various activities. Some examples of how points may be awarded include winning REC games, being the first groups fully seated and ready for worship, being caught doing something kind for someone else, etc. Points may only be given by Purpose Week staff members, but any sponsor or student may nominate someone or a team for points by speaking with a staff member.

## **Free Time**

The following activities are usually open during Free Time. If for some reason an activity is unavailable, we will try to announce that before morning worship that day. Water coolers are available at all locations to refill water bottles.

- Pool
- Lakeside (Kayaks and Canoes, Fishing)
- Ropes Course (Zip Line, High Challenge Course, Giant Swing, Crate Stack, Climbing Wall)
- Rifle Range
- Archery Range
- Axe Throw
- Shooting Clays
- Hiking Trails
- Basketball/Pickleball Court
- Gaga Ball and 9 Square in the Air
- Volleyball Court
- Game Room in Cafeteria
- Breezeway Table Tennis

While we allow students freedom to pick and choose their activities during this time, we do ask that sponsors know where their students are at all times and keep tabs on them. No student should be out by themselves. Students are also not permitted in the dorms without a sponsor.

## **Late Night**

The following activities are available each night for Late Night:

**Basketball Court Activities** – Activities available around the Basketball Court include basketball, pickleball, volleyball, gaga ball, and 9 square in the air.

**Late Night Swim** – The pool will be open with lifeguards on duty for Late Night Swim each night.

**Game Room** – The cafeteria will be open as a game room with a library of various games to check out and play in the air conditioning. Campers are welcome to bring their own games as long as they are appropriate for all ages.

In addition to these activities, each night has a scheduled activity campers may participate in:

**Monday** – Karaoke in the Tabernacle. Requested songs may be submitted the day of check in ahead of time.

**Tuesday and Wednesday** – Sporting Tournaments will be held these days. Specific information on events and sign-ups will be available at check-in.

**Thursday** – A campfire and smore's will be available in the Breezeway and the ropes course will be open for Late Night Ropes. Often during campfire night students or staff who brought instruments will bring those out and have a jam session at this time.

## **Missions Partner**

Each year our team chooses a Mission Partner to both introduce different missions opportunities to students and to support them through giving. This year our Mission Partner is the Hope Women's Resource Clinic in Beaumont, Texas.

This year we will host members from the Hope Clinic team at our camp where they will have the opportunity to talk to our kids, lead a hands-on missions breakout, and show off their mobile clinic bus.

## **Purpose Week Store**

Prior to worship times and during Late Night the Purpose Week Store is available for purchases in the Tabernacle Foyer. Extra camp shirts, notebooks, and stickers are available for purchase, and all proceeds go to the Purpose Week Camp fund. The Purpose Week Store accepts cash and cards.

## **ETBE Store and Snack Shack**

East Texas Baptist Encampment also has a small store on campus that is open during Free Time in the afternoon. They have shirts, hats, and various trinkets available for purchase. All proceeds in their store go to the ETBE Staff Scholarship Fund for their summer staff. The ETBE Store accepts cash only.

East Texas Baptist Encampment has a Snack Shack that is open in the afternoons for Free Time and evening for Late Night with various beverages and snacks. The Snack Shack accepts cash only.

## **Color Group Clean Up Challenge**

On Friday morning before worship, we split the campus into six sections and have our color teams compete in one last challenge to clean up their assigned section of the camp. We believe in leaving the campus better than we found it, and by holding this final challenge we not only bless the ETBE staff but the camps that follow us at the Encampment. Supplies are provided for the clean-up, but we do ask that all students and sponsors participate to encourage the teams as a whole to give the clean up 100%.

## **What To Pack**

Below is a sample packing list to share with your students and sponsors.

- Bible and writing utensils
- Comfortable, modest clothing
- Extra clothes that can get wet and muddy during REC (dark colors)
- Comfortable, closed toe shoes
- Swimwear with a dark colored t-shirt or swim shirt (everyone)
- Sleepwear, socks, and underwear
- Towels, washcloths, and hygiene products
- Shower Shoes
- Pillow and bedding (sleeping bag or sheets for a twin bed)
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Wristwatch
- Flashlight
- Hand sanitizer
- Spending money for Snack Shack, Gift Shop, Purpose Week Shop, etc.

## **Further Questions**

If you have any questions or there is anything we have failed to address, please do not hesitate to contact Lizz at [office@gtbn.us](mailto:office@gtbn.us) for more information. Thank you so much for all the work you do in these kids' lives and for trusting us to be a part of that ministry this year.