



Dear Parent,

Ahoy! I'm excited your Scout has chosen to be a part of one of the oldest and most unique traditions in the Longhorn Council. As an Aquatic School crewmember, your Scout is in for a real treat as well as some hard work and a whole lot of fun!

This packet should help answer most, if not all, of your questions about what your Scout needs to be prepared for a great time at Aquatic School.

WHEN: Aquatic School is July 13th – 19th, 2025.

WHERE: Aquatic School will be at Worth Ranch, located in Palo Pinto, TX. (see map on page 9)

TIME: Registration is from 9:30am – 11:00am on Sunday, July 13th

It is extremely **important that you arrive on time.** The Aquatic School program begins directly after registration so it is imperative that you arrive & check in BEFORE 11:00 AM.

COST: The total cost for Aquatic School is \$375 if paid after April 20th. The \$60 deposit is non-refundable, but may be transferred to another Scout. If your Scout cannot attend Aquatic School or you have any questions about payments or balance, please contact the camping registrar at: camping@longhorn.org as soon as possible.

Installment payments toward the balance can be made from now until June 30, 2025.

****IMPORTANT NOTE****

**Any Scout not fully paid by June 30, 2025
could lose their spot to a Scout on the waiting list.**

EVERY SCOUT MUST:

1. Be a registered Scout, age 13-17, by July 13th, 2025.

2. Have a current BSA Medical Form Parts A, B, and C signed by a medical professional. **Indicating an examination by a physician within 12 months prior to Aquatic School.** ALL SCOUTS MUST HAVE A SIGNED HEALTH FORM ON FILE TO STAY OVERNIGHT.

3. Be able to pass the BSA Swimmer's Test. **All Scouts will take the swimmers test on Sunday afternoon.** To be classified as a swimmer, you must jump feet first into water over your head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner, using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using a resting backstroke (elementary backstroke). The 100 yards must be swam continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating as motionlessly as possible. **Scouts unable to complete the swimmer's test on Sunday will not be allowed to attend Aquatic School.**

TO DO BEFORE ARRIVING:

1. Your Scout should do their best to MEMORIZE the 8 points of Safe Swim Defense as well as the 9 points of the Safety Afloat. The better your Scout knows these principles before arriving, the better prepared he/she will be for Aquatic School. There are a variety of resources to learn Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat, but here is an online link:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss02/>

2. In addition, your Scout should review the Swimming, Lifesaving, Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking, and Public Speaking merit badge pamphlets. – **It's NOT necessary to purchase the books.**

IMPORTANT DATES:

- JUNE 30, 2025 – Scouts not paid in full could lose their spot to a scout on the waiting list.
- SUNDAY, July 13th, 2025 – REGISTRATION (From 9:30am – 11:00am)
- SATURDAY, July 19th, 2025 – AQUATIC SAFETY PRESENTATION & GRADUATION CEREMONY (Begins at 10:00am sharp)

o There is not a parent's night at Aquatic School. Therefore, we strongly encourage all parents, leaders, and guests to attend the Aquatic Safety Program and Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, July 19th starting at 10:00am.

UNIFORM:

Aquatic School requires Scouts to wear a complete Scout uniform, which includes:

- 1) Scouts BSA, Venture, or Sea Scout field uniform shirt
- 2) Scouts BSA or Venture Scout shorts/skirt, (**NOT blue jeans, camo shorts, or other non-Scout shorts**)
- 3) Scout socks (NOT white socks), and
- 4) Scout belt.

Merit badge & Order of the Arrow sashes are not necessary.

Please make every effort to have a complete Scout uniform—either by purchasing or borrowing uniform parts.

We are aware that some units only require a “waist up” uniform. However, Aquatic School requires a full Scout uniform.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR REGISTRATION (July 13th) EACH SCOUT MUST:

1. **ARRIVE WEARING A COMPLETE SCOUT UNIFORM.**
2. Have a daypack readily accessible and packed with swimwear, towel, water bottle, and pen.
3. Have a current BSA Medical Form Parts A, B, and C signed by a medical professional. **Indicating an examination by a physician within 12 months prior to Aquatic School. ALL SCOUTS MUST HAVE A SIGNED HEALTH FORM ON FILE TO STAY OVERNIGHT.**
4. Have any and all medication that your Scout will be taking at Aquatic School along with instructions for our Health Officer to review.

AQUATIC SCHOOL EQUIPMENT LIST

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

All cell phones, ipods, ipads, laptops, and any other electronic devices ARE NOT ALLOWED at Aquatic School. Devices found will be taken and stored in the camp office and returned to the Scout after graduation. Parents needing to contact their Scout can do so by contacting the School Skipper or Staff Advisor from the numbers listed below.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

****Scouts will stay in summer camp tents on platforms—as such, Scouts are encouraged to bring a cot and a footlocker-style container to stow their gear like they would at summer camp.****

1. **Completed & current BSA Medical Form Parts A, B, and C signed by a medical professional.**
2. **COMPLETE SCOUT UNIFORM** (includes: Scouts BSA, Venture, or Sea Scout field uniform shirt, Scout shorts/skirt, Scout socks & belt. Merit badge & Order of the Arrow sashes are not necessary.)
3. **Durable tote bag** (day pack or school-sized backpack) for carrying water, notebook, and gear to and from merit badge classes & evening events.
4. Canteen/Nalgene/refillable water bottle (pack a backup in case it gets lost)
5. Cot
6. Bedding and/or sleeping bag
7. Appropriate Swimwear (Male – No Speedos; Female – No two-piece suits)
8. **Appropriate Boat Docks clothes** (see Health Tip Section on next page)
9. Toilet kit & washcloths
10. **TWO PAIR OF SHOES** – (1) pair for dry wear & (1) pair for wet wear in the river (old tennis shoes or water shoes with good sole) **NO FLIP FLOPS, OPEN-TOED SANDALS OR TIVAS.**
11. Flashlight and/or head lamp
12. Insect repellent
13. Hat
14. Sun block (SPF 30 or higher)
15. At least 2 Towels (one for merit badge classes and another for showering)
16. 2 large plastic trash bags to protect gear in case of rain storm
17. Rain suit, Poncho, or other wet-weather gear
18. **20-SECOND STRIP CLOTHES** for Lifesaving merit badge: 1) long trousers with no holes, 2) long-sleeve button-up shirt—NO snaps or holes, 3) socks, and 4) belt. **This is required for ALL Scouts attending Aquatic School regardless if they have previously earned the badge.**
19. Pen and/or pencil
20. Large marker pens for making posters (red, blue and black); poster paper will be provided
21. Personal First Aid kit: Band aids, Gold Bond, headache tablets, etc.
22. At least one wire clothes hanger to keep your uniform neat throughout the week.

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT:

1. **TENT – you can bring your own (please let us know if you plan on bringing your own)**
2. Mile Swim Card, or letter from unit verifying completion of Mile Swim (See the Frequently Asked Questions Section on page 5 for explanation)
3. Stationary and Stamps if you wish to send letters home.
4. Merit Badge pamphlets if you have them (You DO NOT need to go out and purchase these books, consider borrowing these from someone in your troop).

HEALTH TIPS:

- Please have your Scout trim their toenails and fingernails before coming to Aquatic School.

It is strongly recommended that Scouts bring a light colored, long-sleeve shirt and light-colored trousers to reduce their daily exposure to the sun while at the Boat Docks, especially if fair skinned.

MONEY:

Scouts will be required to keep track of their own money. Therefore, we recommend that they bring no more than \$20 (in small bills, please) for a small Aquatic School Trading Post.

The full Worth Ranch trading post will NOT be open during Aquatic School.

I can personally tell you that this experience will be a challenging, fun, and exciting an adventure for your Scout. I hope your Scout is as excited about it as we are.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (817) 578-6111, or the Aquatic School Chairman Jason Wright at (512) 626-1883— (please leave a message, including your name and phone number and we will return your call as soon as possible). You can also reach me by e-mail at mcfaddenbio@gmail.com. The staff and I look forward to meeting you at registration.

~Mike McFadden
2025 Skipper



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Is the required health form for Aquatic School the same one used for summer camp?

Yes. The health form required is the BSA Medical Form Parts A, B, and C. This is the form used for Longhorn Council summer camps. **This form must be completed and signed by a medical professional indicating an examination by a physician within 12 months prior to Aquatic School!** A copy is required for all Scouts to stay the night.

2) Do we need to bring a health form if our Scout attended summer camp at Worth Ranch?

YES! Aquatic School is not part of the Worth Ranch summer resident camp program. **There are no health forms on file at Worth Ranch.** This question comes to us almost every year—**THERE ARE NO HEALTH FORMS ON FILE WITH THE LONGHORN COUNCIL.** You must talk to your unit leader if your Scout had a health form for summer camp. It is imperative that you bring a completed, updated, and signed health when you arrive at registration on July 13th.

3) Do I pay the balance of the fee at registration?

No. All payments need to be made BEFORE arriving. You can do this by clicking the link to the registration that you received when you signed up. Click on “Checkout.” Alternatively, you can pay in person at the Service Center. You can also call the Hurst Service Center (817-231-8501) and make a payment by phone with a credit/debit card.

The cost of Aquatic School after April 20th, 2025 is \$390.00. Any Scout not paid in full by June 30th could lose their seat to a Scout on the waiting list.

4) How important is a full Scout uniform?

It's important. We understand that price is a factor, which is why we suggest borrowing uniform parts from friends in your unit. Being in a complete Scout uniform, including shorts/skirts & socks, is important and we stress the importance of Scouts wearing a Scout uniform. The ships and watches are rewarded based on uniform inspections and how they present themselves as a whole. It's important that every Scout has a complete uniform. In addition, the ship picture will hang in the Worth Ranch dining hall forever—we want each Scout to look their best before being immortalized in the photo.

5) Why are Scouts not allowed to have cell phones and other electronic devices?

First, Longhorn Council policy is that **cell phones are not allowed** during any other youth-focused, Council/District-sponsored training, including Aquatic School.

Secondly, Aquatic School is a very busy and challenging week. We are working to not only teach your Scouts better aquatic skills but also leadership, instructional, and time management skills they can use for the rest of their life. Because of this, the schedule is designed to maximize your Scout's time. Cell phones and other electronic devices are a huge distraction preventing your Scout from achieving the goals of Aquatic School. In addition, any “free time” or other time Scouts have outside of classes and lectures should be used to complete their projects **and sleeping.**

Scouts who would use this time on cell phones, etc. would be wasting valuable time—which could possibly affect other Scouts in their watch and ship. **Simply put, there is no time for them, they are a distraction, and they do not need them.**

6) What happens if my Scout brings a cell phone or electronic device?

As stated above, the Longhorn Council policy is that all cell phones and electronic devices are not allowed at Council/District-sponsored training. A Scout is Trustworthy and Obedient, so our expectation is that all Scouts **and parents** will adhere to this policy. **There have been parents in the past that have asked their scout to hide their phone and contact them if they need anything.** Not only does this go against the council policy, but it puts the program at risk and encourages your scout to act in a way that is contrary to the Scout Law. As stated above, any phone or electronic device found will be taken up and stored in the camp office. Parents will be notified if any device is taken up.

Additionally, we are trying to teach your Scouts how to become better Scouts, leaders and instructors. We take this very seriously as we want Aquatic School graduates and anchormen to be shining examples to other Scouts. Also, as mentioned above, cell phones and other electronic devices are huge distractions that will not only hinder your Scout's ability to succeed but may also hinder *another* Scout's opportunity.

If your Scout cannot go 6 days without his or her phone, laptop, etc. then Aquatic School might not be the right program for them.

7) Does my Scout need to be CPR/First Aid certified BEFORE Aquatic School?

No. We are not able to offer a CPR/First Aid Certification during Aquatic School. CPR/First Aid that meets the merit badge requirements will be provided.

8) Can my Scout earn Lifeguard at Aquatic School this year.

National retired the BSA Lifeguard program effective December 31, 2024. The Longhorn Council and Aquatic School Staff is working on creating a partnership with the Red Cross that will allow Aquatic School to train and certify lifeguards. At this time, Scouts will not be able to become certified as Red Cross Lifeguard during the 2025 Aquatic School. **Scouts 15+ will be able to earn Scouting America's Swimming & Water Rescue certification and will be qualified to conduct swim tests and act as response personnel for unit aquatic activities.** Important to note is that all scouts will be trained in the Red Cross Lifeguarding techniques and rescues regardless of our ability to certify them as lifeguards.

9) Why do they need to bring a Mile Swim Card? Isn't Mile Swim offered at Aquatic School?

We do offer Scouts the opportunity to complete the Mile Swim. However, Scouts who have already completed the Mile Swim can get credit for the **National Outdoor Aquatics Award** if they do not wish to swim the mile again. If a Scout brings a Mile Swim card, or a letter or document from his unit verifying that he/she has previously completed the Mile Swim, we can sign that requirement.

10) What time will the graduation ceremony end on Saturday, July 19th?

It depends. Sorry for such a vague answer, but the first thing that happens Saturday morning is an aquatic safety demonstration put on by the Scouts. That takes approximately 30–40 minutes. Afterward, Scouts get changed back into their uniforms and assemble for graduation. The graduation ceremony lasts approximately an hour. So... if we start at 10:00 that means graduation should be finished somewhere between 11:30 to 12:00(ish).

11) Does my Scout need to purchase all the merit badge books?

No. We simply suggest that your Scout take time to look over the materials being covered in the various merit badges offered at Aquatic School so that they're more prepared.

12) What if my Scout already has a particular merit badge?

Every Scout participates in the full Aquatic School program. Scouts who have already earned one or more of the badges will still attend that class with their watch. While they will no doubt improve their physical skills, they will also be honing their instruction and leadership skills. We will use them as a resource to help other Scouts in their watch who haven't earned the badge. Their time will not be wasted, that's for sure.

13) What are 20-Second Strip clothes?

Requirement #9 of Lifesaving Merit Badge requires Scouts to "Remove street clothes in 20 seconds or less, enter the water, and approach [victim]." **Scouts must have the proper clothes for this.**

IMPORTANT NOTES = 1) Scouts need a button-up long sleeve shirt. 2) Be sure the clothes properly fit the Scout—we've had Scouts bring pants 1 to 2 sizes bigger than their size—we will not allow a Scout to complete the requirement using improperly fitting clothes.

14) Is there a parent's night?

No. We understand that some parents might want to visit like at summer camp. Unfortunately, the Aquatic School program does not allow for such an activity. Your Scouts are in class all day and every evening is full of either programs or activities designed to help your Scouts achieve their goals. However, the aquatic safety demonstration before graduation is completely designed and run by the Scouts—it's pretty impressive. We strongly encourage all parents, leaders, and guests to attend the demonstration and graduation ceremony.

15) Does my Scout need to bring a tent?

No. You do not NEED to bring a tent, but you MAY if you'd like. We will have the canvas wall tents used for Longhorn Council summer camp available for Scouts to use. Like summer camp, if a Scout uses these tents, they will only need to bring a cot and/or air mattress (along with bedding, sleeping bag, etc.) to sleep on. Scouts should pack their gear in a footlocker to stow in their tents. **If your Scout plans to bring their own tent, please contact us and let us know.**

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at mcfaddenbio@gmail.com

AQUATIC SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: Scout's Name,
Worth Ranch, Aquatic School

P.O. Box 27
1518 Worth Ranch Road
Palo Pinto, TX 76484

School Skipper:

Mike McFadden
(817) 578-6111
mcfaddenbio@gmail.com

Staff Advisor:

Theo Leier
(817) 231-8514
Theo.Leier@Scouting.org

Aquatic School Chairman:

Jason W. Wright
(512) 626-1883
jwright@aquaticschool.org

Camp Ranger:

Pat Adams
(903) 949-0168 (Cell)

Registration:

Sunday, July 13th, 2025 from 9:30am to 11:00am
(Please arrive on time)

Graduation:

Saturday, July 19th, 2025
10:00am - Aquatic Safety Program (put on by Scouts)
Followed by Graduation Ceremony

Longhorn Council Office

Attn: Aquatic School Payment
PO Box 54190
850 Cannon Dr
Hurst, TX 76054
(817) 231-8501

MAP TO WORTH RANCH

Worth Ranch is located on the Brazos River below Kyle Mountain, an hour west of Fort Worth and four (4) miles north of Palo Pinto. From downtown Fort Worth, it is approximately 63 miles to the entrance, taking I-30 and I-20 to Weatherford, Hwy 180 from Weatherford to Palo Pinto, and FM-4 to the camp.

For GPS users:

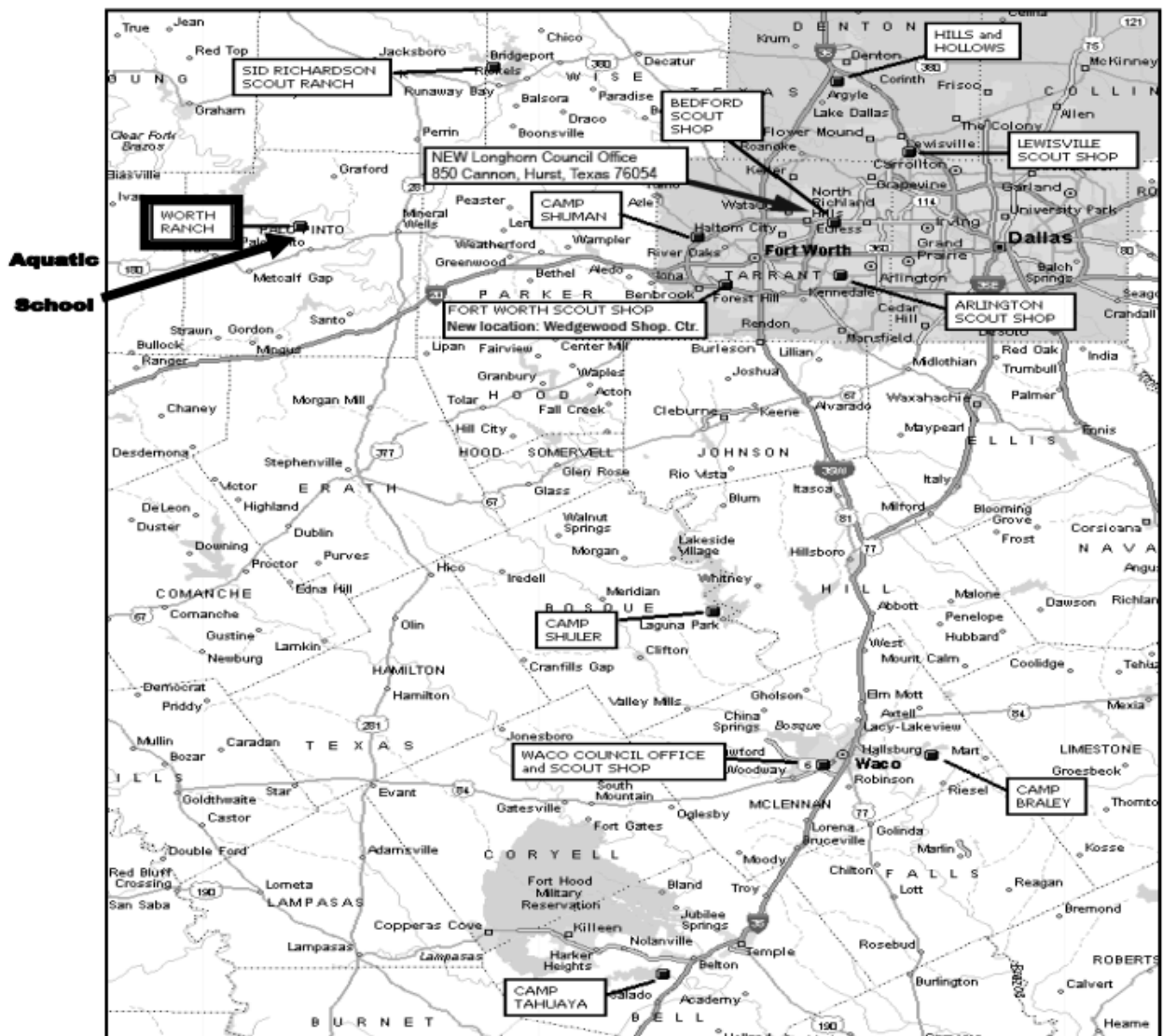
Enter this for GPS Directions to the main road.

Worth Ranch Rd, Palo Pinto, TX 76484 (Mileage may vary once upon Worth Ranch Rd.)

GPS Coordinates (the beginning of the Worth Ranch Rd):

32.825311 , -98.302038

+32 49' 31.120" , -98 18' 7.337"



Longhorn Council Refund Policy

Any required deposits shall be non-refundable. To request a refund email camping@longhorn.org.

Refund of fees, outside of a deposit, will be processed on a sliding scale according to the following guidelines:

Requests received 30 or more days before the event – you will receive 100% of the total event fee, less the non-refundable processing fee.

Requests received 15-29 days before the event – you will receive 50% of the total event fee, less the non-refundable processing fee.

Requests received within 14 days of the day of the event – No refund will be issued, except in the event of a documented medical reason (doctor's note required), a death in the immediate family, or a natural disaster.

For events where you register as a unit, registrations are transferable within the same unit to a Scout not currently registered for the activity.