

BRCT

Brazos River Canoe Trek

Worth Ranch

Longhorn Council



Leader's Guide

2026

Welcome to the Brazos River Canoe Trek!

Thank you for choosing Longhorn Council's Premiere Canoe Trek. We are located at Worth Ranch outside of Palo Pinto, TX.

While at camp, Scouts, Venturers, or Sea Scouts will grow in ways that they did not expect and have a great time. This will provide opportunities for the young adults to experience a historic canoeing, fishing experience with your guidance and support in a way that does not commonly occur at residence camps or other camping experiences. Valuable connections are made during a unit's time on the Brazos River Canoe Trek.

More than anything else, this is an opportunity for you and your Scouts to have fun and create lifelong memories.



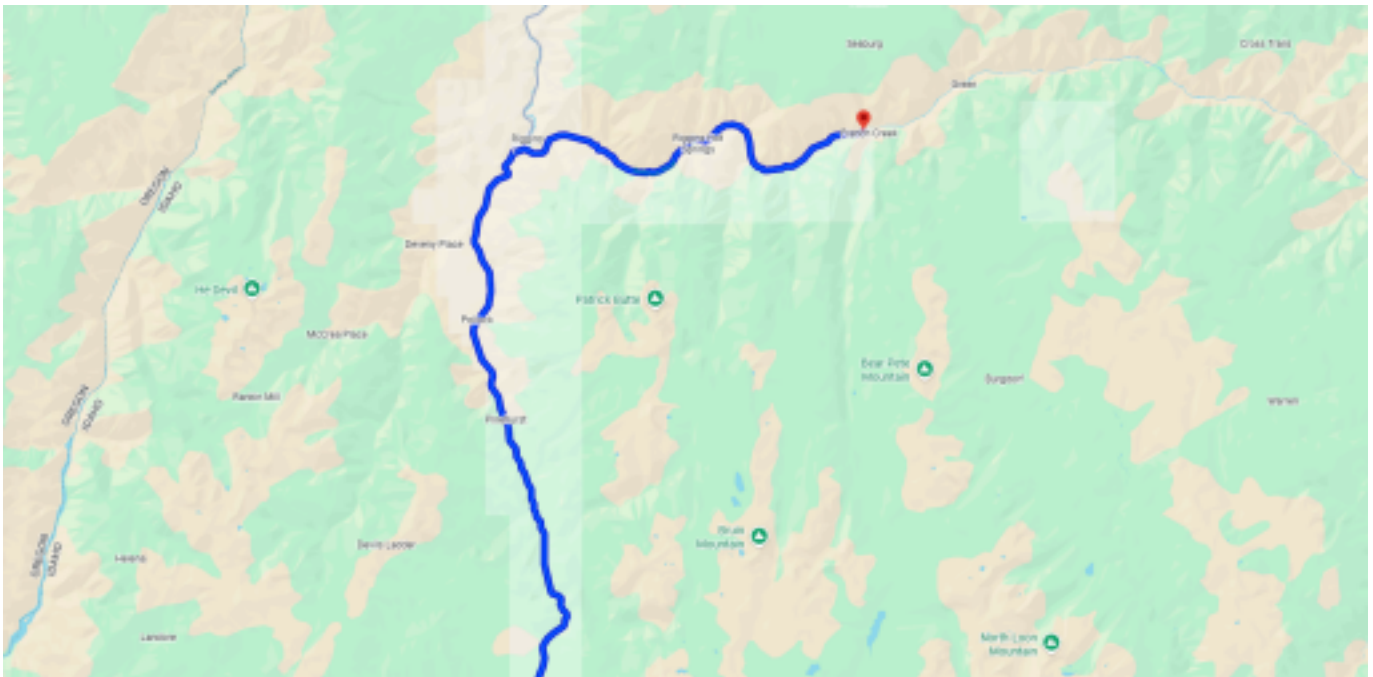
Program Requirements

- All participants must be registered with Scouting America in a Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scout unit. There is a minimum age requirement of 13 years or having completed the 7th grade.
- All participants, youth and adults, must take the swim test prior to arriving.
- All participants must bring current medical forms A, B, and C.
- All leaders must be current in:
 - Safeguarding Youth training
 - Safety Afloat training
 - Weather Aware training
 - Wilderness First Aid (One on Trek Adult).

BRCT Trek

Embark on 5 action-packed days of canoeing and fishing while we will explore the historic significance of the Brazos River. Our evenings will be filled with setting up camp, cooking our catch and star-gazing. Following our historic president, our Trek Leader will maintain a journal of our experiences. Mornings will start with group stretches, packing and continuing on down the river. This Trek will build character, strengthen bonds, and create memories to last a lifetime.

Our Trek Guides handle all the details. Great food and expert guides - so you can focus on the journey and the experience. This is more than just a canoeing trip; it's an unmatched combination of camaraderie, unforgettable experiences and a step back into history.



Directions to [Worth Ranch](#) from DFW, TX

Take I-20 or I-30 West toward Weatherford

Take Exit 405 for Ric Williamson Memorial Hwy, turn North

Turn left onto US 180

Turn Right onto North 3rd Ave FM 4 North

Turn left onto Worth Ranch Road

Arrive at Worth Ranch and follow directions from Staff Members

Registration

The minimum crew size is 2 adults and 2 youth. Even number of crew participants is required. Maverick Scouts are possible to fill out crews. Maximum crew size is 2 adults and 10 youth. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit per person will hold your place which will be applied to your total trip fees. Midpoint deposit due by 2/28/2026, final payment is due 4/29/2026 totaling \$500 per participant or late registration totaling \$550 if paid after

4/29/2026. There are no cancellations or refunds, only transferrable to another participant. Final payment is due April 29, 2026.

Itinerary

Each day you will explore a new section of the Brazos River! All activities are subject to change based on weather conditions and river levels. There is plenty of time for camp games, meetings, and an overall good time!

Day 0-Sunday: Your Trek Crew will come in with regular scheduled camp registration. We will separate from regular campers and dive into Trek Planning and Merit Badge preliminaries. Questions can be addressed to John Thomas at longhornbrct@gmail.com Please note that the first meal provided will be the dinner on Sunday evening.

Day 1-Monday: Rise & Shine at sunrise when we will continue final preparations, have breakfast and leave camp for our put-in at the bridge below Possum Kingdom Dam. We will load all of our gear into our canoes, have a safety talk, then the canoe trip begins. We'll have lunch at the confluence of the Ioni Creek and the Brazos River. We will then continue down river, completing approx. 14 miles to the island below Worth Ranch.

Day 2-Tuesday: Rise & Shine at sunrise, stretches, strike your gear, have breakfast, load canoes and put out. Lunch will be 6 miles down the river at Rochelle's under the Dark Valley Bridge. After lunch we'll continue down the river approximately 4 miles where we will stop for a break to practice fly fishing and for those not interested in fly fishing, wading. We'll continue another 6 miles down the river and camp on the Post Oak Bend. After camp set-up, we will cook & enjoy our day's catch. Astronomy Merit Badge observations will be conducted prior to turning in for the night.

Day 3-Wednesday: Rise & shine at sunrise, stretches, strike your gear, have breakfast, load canoes and put out. At Rochelle's 10 mile take out, on the Hart Bend, we will stop

for lunch. Continuing on down the river, we will camp on the Dog Bend.

Day 4-Thursday: Rise & shine at sunrise, stretches, strike your gear, have breakfast, load canoes and put out. Today we'll pass the 180 bridge on the Bath Bend, travel around the Pollard Bend, and the Hittson Bend where we will camp at Oaks Crossing. At this point, if you are on a 47 mile Trek, Friday morning we will be retrieved and taken back to Worth Ranch. Your crew can then take a 4 mile hike to the top of Kyle Mountain to complete your 50 miler award. Then you will be attending the closing campfire in the evening. If you are on the 70 mile Trek...

Day 5-Friday: Rise & Shine at sunrise, stretches, strike your gear, have breakfast, load canoes and put out. We will then travel past the Village Bend, the John Hittson Bend, the Chestnut Bend, Edmondson Bend, past Sand Valley, the Whitney Bend, Cyclone Bend, Polk Stalk Bend and into a long straightaway to our take out at the 281 Bridge. From which we will return to Worth Ranch in time for you to attend the closing campfire.

Preparation for BRCT

Packing List

Freestanding Tent - Most campsites will be on gravel that won't allow for driving tent stakes. Likewise, hammock camping is not available at most sites.

Sleeping Bag

Sleeping Pad

Pillow

Rain Suit - Two-piece, jacket and pants. We recommend PVC, EVA or PEVA rainwear, which is basically the rubbery plastic material. It is waterproof and warm. Thin plastic ponchos are good backups, but might not be durable for multiple days. 99% of the time it's hot and sunny, but good rain gear can turn canoeing in the rain into a positive

experience.

Footwear - You will need two pairs of shoes. 1). Sturdy water shoes. Sneakers offer the most protection and work well when used with wool, polypro, or neoprene socks for insulation. Most prefer Chacos or Tevas for being sturdy and quick drying. 2).

Comfortable camp shoes that can be used on rocky campsites.

Flip flops, crocs, etc are not allowed on the river. Footwear is MANDATORY at all times on the river, in camp, and on the beach.

Watch

Clothing

-swimsuit

-2 to 3 pairs of shorts, shirts & underwear for camp

-2 to 3 Long sleeve quick drying shirts. (Sunscreen is not sufficient sun protection.)

-Long pants for sun protection.

-3 to 5 pairs of dry socks.

-Cotton hoodies and jeans are bulky and hard to dry. Leave them behind.

-Water Bottle - Bring sturdy water bottle, Nalgene type preferred. 100+ degree weather is not uncommon! Staying hydrated is crucial.

-Smellables Water Bottle - This water bottle will be marked as "Smellables" and will be used for hydration and flavor packets. It will be stored in the camp kitchen leg of the 'Bearnuda Triangle.'

-Hat - Bring a hat for sun protection. Add a retainer in case of wind or water fight.

-Sunglasses and Eyeglasses - Retainers like croakies or chums will be your best friend.

-Sunscreen and Lip Balm - Expect long hours in the sun. Bring plenty and re-apply during the day.

-Insect Repellent - This is Texas in the summer next to the River.

-Red Flashlight and/or Headlamp - Don't forget the extra batteries.

-Personal Toiletries - Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.

-Towel - Quick dry is preferred.

-Soap - (Not Allowed on River Trek) Biodegradable soap does extensive damage to rivers before it degrades. It is not allowed in the Brazos River or any side tributaries. You may use soap at Worth Ranch, where it will be required.

-Medicine - If you need to bring any medicine critical to your health, bring it in a daily divided box in a gallon bag, clearly labeled with your name. A guide or leader will carry the medicine container in the Trek First Aid Kit.

-Epipens - Due to the remote location, we strongly recommend bringing 2 sets if you require life saving medication. Bee stings have occasionally happened on river trips. Bees are attracted to the wet, cool sand as well as sugary drinks and meat. You must bring an Epipen if you are allergic to bee stings or have any other serious allergy.

****You must keep these items on your person in a small day drybag.****

-Cell Phones - There is no cell service, wifi, or electrical grid along the river, it's great! River guides carry satellite communication for emergencies. Family members can reach out to the Worth Ranch Camp office if needed during your trip. They can relay messages that are checked daily by river guides.

-Camera - Padded, waterproof camera cases are essential for expensive cameras. Waterproof cases work well for cell phone cameras.

-Snacks and Candy- Bring what you prefer, placed in personalized containers. They will be stored in the kitchen barrel. Meals are provided, but afternoon snacks hit the spot, especially with the high level of activity.

-Fishing Gear - You will need a Texas fishing license if you will be fishing and over 17 years of age. Hybrid Striped, Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted and White Bass, Buffalo, Bullhead, Catfish - multiple types, Crappie, Drum, American Eel, Gar - multiple types, Mullet, Shad, Sunfish and Trout can be caught here.

-Carabiners - (Optional) To secure water bottles to the canoes during the day.

-Personal First Aid Kit

Gear Provided by BRCT

- Charcoal Fire Pit & Charcoal – Campfires are allowed at some locations.
- Safety and First Aid Equipment – While on the river. Scouts should bring ‘Ouch kits’ for personal use.
- PFDs – US Coast Guard approved. If bringing your own river gear, you must verify it with the guides before your trip.
- Day Dry Bag – Large dry bags will be provided to be shared.

Leave Behind

- Unnecessary electronic devices
- Laptops
- Fireworks – Absolutely not!
- Firewood
- Glass containers
- Jewelry

Required Paperwork to Bring

- Medical Forms A, B, and C and photocopies of front and back of insurance cards for each participant
- Unit roster (also please submit to longhornbrct@gmail.com 1 week prior to trip)
- Local council proof of medical insurance if you are not in the Longhorn Council
- Swim Check Form

Emergency Information

Most of the river traversed by canoes is outside of cell phone and radio reception. River guides always have a satellite device for emergency communication should the need arise. Apart from that, the following numbers will provide the fastest possible means for campers to be contacted from home.

Longhorn Council: (817) 231-8100

Worth Ranch: (817) 231-8537

BRCT Trek Director: longhornbrct@gmail.com

Packing Checklist

Tent

Sleeping bag

Sleeping pad

Pillow

Rain suit

2-3 pairs footwear

Swimsuit

2-3 pairs of long pants, shirts, & underwear

2-3 quick drying long sleeved shirts

5 pairs socks

2 Water bottles

Hat

Sunglasses & eyeglasses

Sunscreen & lip balm

Insect repellent

Red Flashlight and/or headlamp

Personal toiletries including soap to use at Worth Ranch

Towel

Medications

Optional Items

Cell phone with waterproof case (for taking pictures)

Camera with waterproof case

Snacks & candy

Fishing gear

Carabiners

Small personal day dry bag