



**FAITH ★ FAMILY
ACADEMY™**



**EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING
10th GRADE – BIG BEND AREA PARKS**

Girls – November 6-10, 2021 | Boys – November 11-15, 2021

We have an extraordinary trip planned for tenth grade. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see and explore one of the most incredible places in Texas – THE BIG BEND! We will set up camp at Big Bend Resort Campground located in Study Butte, TX, between Big Bend National Park and Big Bend State Park. Students will live in tents, sleep in sleeping bags and utilize other outdoor gear supplied by Faith Family Academy. Our trip will include hiking in both parks and learning paddling skills on the Rio Grande. Both the canoe trip and hiking in Big Bend National Park will be guided by Far Flung Outdoor Center with trained guides. The hike in Big Bend State Park will be led by Faith Family Academy staff trained to lead the hike.

This trip includes:

- Bus transportation to/from Big Bend
- All meals
- Guided hikes in Big Bend National Park and Big Bend State Park
- One full day canoeing on the Rio Grande
- All park entrance and camping fees
- Equipment – backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, sleeping pads, water bottles, etc.

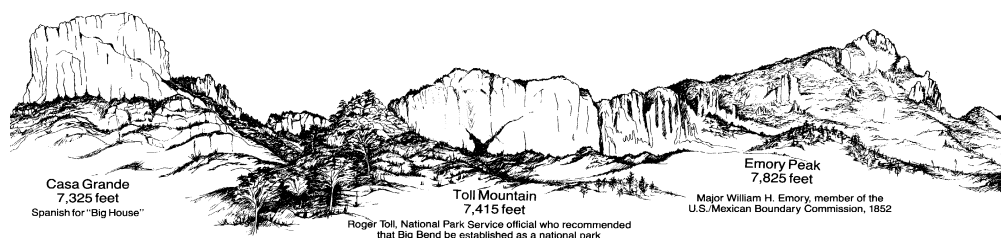
Trip #1 (Girls):

- Depart from Oak Cliff campus on Saturday, November 6th at **6:00 a.m.** Buses will load at the school entrance behind McDonalds.
- Return to Oak Cliff campus on Wednesday, November 10th at approximately **8:00 p.m.**

Trip #2 (Boys):

- Depart from Oak Cliff campus on Thursday, November 11th at **6:00 a.m.** Buses will load at the school entrance behind McDonalds.
- Return to Oak Cliff campus on Monday, November 15th at approximately **8:00 p.m.**

All Health & Permission Forms are due by Monday, May 3, 2021
Please return to Ms. Alicia Urquiza





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EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING

What is EXPLORE360™ Adventure Learning?

- EXPLORE360 is a first-of-its-kind “adventure learning” program for every Faith Family Academy student:
 - ALL GRADES – Pre-K through 12th grade
 - No other program matches EXPLORE360 in scope or scale at a public school in Texas
- EXPLORE360 is more than field trips or campouts – it is an integral part of the FFA curriculum combining classroom learning, outdoor education, skills development and leadership training.
 - Grade-appropriate training – younger students begin with simple, basic skills and add new challenges as they advance through their years at FFA
 - Pre- & post-adventure lessons and reflections

EXPLORE360 Program Goals

- Inspire appreciation, understanding, and support for natural resources
- Equip your child with new outdoor learning and conservation skills
- Provide opportunities for your child to further develop socio-emotional and leadership skills
- Provide opportunities for your child to experience high-quality outdoor learning experiences through trips to private, state, and national parks

EXPLORE360 Research & Best Practices

- Outdoor Learning & Leadership – National Outdoor Learning School, Outward Bound, and Leave No Trace
- Academic – Project WILD (Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Learning Curriculum)
- Leadership/Socio-Emotional Skills – The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
- Led by Experienced Staff – 20+ years of experience in Outdoor Education

EXPLORE360 Student Benefits:

- More confident students prepared to tackle new challenges
- Students with a desire to enjoy nature and our nation’s natural resources
- Students who understand the need to manage themselves and their gear
- Students who become leaders among their peers
- Improved personal skills:
 - Teamwork
 - Communication
 - Perseverance
 - Personal and social responsibility



OUTDOOR EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

Faith Family Academy is introducing a variety of outdoor programs for its students. The focus is to **teach safe and comfortable living in the wilderness** while learning an **appreciation of its beauty**, a **respect for the interrelationship of its parts**, and an **understanding of the need for continued protection and preservation of the wilderness environment**. Students will experience the out-of-doors with the attitude of **“learning by doing.”**

By participating, students broaden their personal awareness and experience through the process of adjusting to an unfamiliar outdoor setting. Students learn to separate their needs from wants and learn to live without the aid of modern America. Out of necessity, they evaluate their relations with others, discover the need for group support, and develop leadership capabilities --- often previously inexperienced.

The intent for this program is that students graduate from Faith Family Academy with the ability to travel through the back country with a measure of confidence, a minimum of environmental impact, a maximum of observational skills, and the wish to continue outdoor exploration. It is desired that students learn skills and discover their physical capabilities, make decisions and stretch their talents, but above all, experience the fun and joy of the outdoor world.

Outdoor Education Goals

1. To enable students to **know themselves** and their abilities.
2. To improve **thinking skills** through the necessity of solving problems with a real or imaginary physical impediment.
3. To develop and improve **leadership and communication skills** necessary to be successful in life.
4. To allow students the realization that they are capable of greater stamina, emotionally, physically, and mentally, than had previously been thought by placing them in a physically difficult, unfamiliar environment.
5. To develop in students a **love and respect for the natural world** so that, as adults, they may become discerning decision makers regarding environmental issues.
6. To enlist the active participation of each student by engaging his hands and his imagination in a **direct learning process**.
7. To provide an emotional, physical, and mental challenge and **lead students to growth**.
8. To correspond the Outdoor Education goals with those of the **science and history curricula** of the appropriate grade; to provide a better understanding of subject content and the opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom.
9. To familiarize students with **outdoor living/travel procedures and safety**.

Purpose

1. To promote a feeling of unity and shared experience outside the classroom
2. To promote an understanding of various ecological habitats: Riparian, desert, high desert.
3. To encourage an appreciation for the beauty of the desert
4. To reinforce outdoor education skills
5. To give students the opportunity to journal in an outdoor setting.



EXPLORE360™ – BIG BEND AREA PARKS TRIP ITINERARY

Trip Details

May 3, 2021 ALL PERMISSION AND MEDICAL HISTORY FORMS ARE DUE!

**Girls – November 6-10, 2021
Boys – November 11-15, 2021**

- Day 1** Depart from the Oak Cliff campus for Big Bend at **6:00 a.m.** by bus. We will be loading the bus at the school entrance behind McDonalds. After stopping for lunch at Cici's pizza in Midland, the bus should arrive around **4:00 p.m.** Students will set up tents and get familiar with their new surroundings.
- Day 2** Students will begin their Big Bend adventure in Big Bend National Park. A moderate hike up Lost Mine Trail in the Chisos Mountains will allow students to see a part of Texas few ever see. After lunch on the trail, students will spend time studying the flora and fauna of the area on a self-guided nature trail. They will end their National Park visit with a 30-minute video about the history of the park.
- Day 3** Students will spend day two of their adventure in Big Bend State Park. At more than 300,000 acres, this is the largest State Park in Texas. We will spend the day hiking the Closed Canyon Trail and the Hoodoos Trail.
- Day 4** Students will spend the day canoeing on the Rio Grande under the guidance of Far Flung Outdoor Center. Far Flung will provide canoes, paddles, life jackets and guides to teach students the basics of canoeing.
- Day 5** Students will have a quick breakfast, then break down their tents and pack up for the trip home. The bus will depart at **10:00 a.m.** with a stop again in Midland for pizza. The bus should arrive back at the Oak Cliff campus at approximately **8:00 p.m.**

Weather Preparation

November at Big Bend typically features average temperatures in the high 70s during the day and low 50s at night. While rare, temperatures at night can drop into the 30s, so students should be prepared.

For Emergency Use Only!

The group will be staying at Big Bend Resort & Adventures – (432) 371-3382.

For any medical issues on the day of departure (fever, illness, injury, etc.) please contact Mr. Tien Nguyen, Campus Principal, at (214) 375-7682.



EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of adequate clothing. Although we do not anticipate extreme temperatures, all students and adult leaders must be prepared for inclement weather. Cold temperatures, rain and wind does little harm to a group with a well-planned itinerary, emergency procedures, and gear. We request that each student and parent carefully review the following recommended clothing list.

We use a layering system where different clothing items are worn separately or together to achieve optimum body temperature control.

Clothing

UPPER BODY GARMENTS

You will need at least three (3) insulating layers. These layers must fit comfortably over each other so they can all be worn together if necessary.

- Under Layer:** long-sleeve t-shirts (1-2)
- Under Layer:** short-sleeve t-shirts (2-3)
- Top Layer:** EXPLORE360 fleece jacket (*see enclosed order form*)
- Rain Jacket:** EXPLORE360 rain jacket (*see enclosed order form*)
- Sun Hat:** a baseball cap works fine

LOWER BODY GARMENTS

- Swimsuit:** for canoeing on the Rio Grande
- Long Pants:** jeans or any other type of pants – cotton is ok (1-2 pair)
- Shorts:** can be nylon or cotton (2-3)
- Underwear:** Enough for the week

Pack & Storage Bag

- Duffel Bag:** 1 large enough to fit all items easily
- Bus Bag:** 1 to keep items such as books, magazines, personal belongings, etc.



EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST *continued*

Footwear

- Old pair of shoes:** These are for the canoe trip and will get wet and muddy (1 pair)
- Camp Shoes:** Running, tennis, or athletic shoes to wear hiking (1 pair).
- Cotton Socks:** 5 pair

Miscellaneous Personal Gear

- Lip Balm**
- Sunscreen**
- Sunglasses**
- Flashlight or Head Lamp:** Should be durable and lightweight. Head lamps are preferred. Bring an extra set of batteries.
- Toiletries:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, small brush, skin lotion, shampoo, deodorant, etc.
- Towel**
- Pillow**
- Sleepwear**
- Money:** \$20-30 for souvenirs and snacks is adequate



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**EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING
10th GRADE – BIG BEND AREA PARKS
PERMISSION FORM**

I, _____, am aware in signing this document for my child's participation in the trip to Big Bend National Park/State Park with Faith Family Academy, that certain elements of the program are physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally demanding.

- Furthermore, I understand that certain risks and dangers (such as those listed below) exist in the activities in which my child will be participating. These risks include loss or damage to personal property, injury or fatality due to inclement weather, slipping, falling, insect bites, falling objects, immersion in cold water, hypothermia (cold exposure), hyperthermia (heat exposure), or suffering any type of accident or illness in remote areas without easy access to medical facilities, or while traveling to or from the activity sites.
- I acknowledge that while the program and its staff will make every reasonable effort to teach my child proper outdoor techniques and to minimize exposure to known risks, all dangers (hazards and perils) associated with these activities cannot be foreseen.
- My child has a personal duty and responsibility to learn and to follow the safety standards, guidelines, and procedures established by the staff and volunteers of Faith Family Academy and my child will make the staff and volunteers aware at any point during the activity in which my child questions his/her knowledge of these standards, guidelines, and procedures or his/her ability to participate.
- The activities in Big Bend will include transportation by bus to and from Big Bend National Park/State Park, transportation within Big Bend National Park/State Park, multiple hikes within both parks, and a day of canoeing on the Rio Grande under the supervision of Far Flung Outdoor Center.

I understand and assume ALL dangers (hazards and perils) and risks associated with this trip and waive all claims, demands, actions, causes of action, or suits arising from participation from the trip to Big Bend National Park/ State Park with Faith Family Academy, and do hereby release Faith Family Academy and its agents and representatives from liability whether caused by negligence, breach of contract, strict liability, or otherwise, which I may ever have against the school, their successors and assigns, employees, volunteers, agents, and their heirs, successors, executors, and assigns. Furthermore, I give my consent to the leaders or other medical personnel to treat my child in an emergency situation, including blood transfusion, epinephrine (adrenaline) for anaphylactic shock, ibuprofen, and emergency medical transportation. My signature on this document is also intended to bind my successors, heirs, representatives, administrators and assigns.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Name

Date

Student Name (please print)

Phone Number



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**EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING
EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Father's Name: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Physician: _____

Phone: _____



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EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING PROTOCOL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

More than outdoor education, EXPLORE360™ fosters self-reliance and self-confidence in our students. The focus is to teach safe and comfortable living in the wilderness while learning an appreciation of its beauty and an understanding of the need for continued protection and preservation of the wilderness.

Students experience the outdoors with the attitude of “learning by doing,” which incorporate alternative ideas, methods, and an environment for learning. As a result, students broaden their personal awareness and abilities through the process of adjusting to an unfamiliar outdoor setting.

Through EXPLORE360, students will learn to separate their needs from wants, and to live without the aid of modern America. Out of necessity, they will evaluate their relations with others, discover the need for group support, and develop leadership abilities often previously unexperienced.

Our goal is for students to learn new skills, discover their physical capabilities, make new and exciting decisions, and stretch their talents. Above all, students should experience the fun and joy of the outdoor world. With that in mind, it is imperative that parents and students are aware of and acknowledge our protocols, enabling us to have safe and incident-free experiences.

EXPLORE360 Student Protocols

- I understand there are THREE primary categories I am responsible for:
 - Myself
 - Our equipment
 - The environment

- When hiking on trails, I understand we hike single file and do not cut switchbacks.

- If I get separated from the group, I understand that I am to remain in place and wait for help to come to me.

- I understand that backpacks should always be packed with the following:
 - A warm jacket or hoodie sweatshirt
 - A rain jacket or poncho
 - A full water bottle
 - Sunscreen

- I understand we follow the Outdoor Ethics of “Leave No Trace.”

EXPLORE360 Behavior

Faith Family Academy expects exemplary behavior on EXPLORE360 trips. Parents will be contacted to pick up any student who misbehaves. If the trip is out of town, the student may be sent home at parent expense.

By signing below, I acknowledge and confirm that I have read and understand the above EXPLORE360 Protocols.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date



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**EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING
STUDENT MEDICAL HISTORY**

STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

GRADE

DATE OF BIRTH

CHRONIC ILLNESSES OR DISABILITIES:

ALLERGIES TO MEDICINES, FOODS, INSECTS, ETC.:

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:

ROUTINE MEDICATIONS:

ANY OTHER MEDICAL INFORMATION:

ANY PHYSICAL OR MEDICAL RESTRICTIONS:

DATE OF LAST TETANUS IMMUNIZATION (Booster shot): _____

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

Policy # _____ Group # _____

Insurance Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: Code: _____

- Insurance covers my child for all Outdoor Education trips for the current school year, to pay for any unpaid fees.
- In case of accident or emergency the parent(s) or Legal Guardian will be notified as soon as possible.

I have provided all information for my child's health needs and physical conditions.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

DATE



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EXPLORE360™ ADVENTURE LEARNING STUDENT MEDICATIONS

All medications should be provided in their properly labeled, individual containers. Please do not combine medications in the same container. A medication form signed by your doctor should accompany all prescription medications.

STUDENT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

GRADE

DATE OF BIRTH

Medication #1: _____

Reason: _____ Dosage: _____

Frequency (breakfast/lunch/dinner/bedtime/as needed): _____

Does medicine require refrigeration? _____

Nurse to Complete:

Medication Received – Date: _____ # of Pills: _____

Counter's Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Medication #2: _____

Reason: _____ Dosage: _____

Frequency (breakfast/lunch/dinner/bedtime/as needed): _____

Does medicine require refrigeration? _____

Nurse to Complete:

Medication Received – Date: _____ # of Pills: _____

Counter's Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Medication #3: _____

Reason: _____ Dosage: _____

Frequency (breakfast/lunch/dinner/bedtime/as needed): _____

Does medicine require refrigeration? _____

Nurse to Complete:

Medication Received – Date: _____ # of Pills: _____

Counter's Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____