Camping at Ray Roberts Lake State Park

A no-nonsense guide to camping for 4 adults at Ray Roberts Lake State Park in Pilot Point, TX
# Table of Contents

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checking Environmental Conditions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making Reservations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What to Bring</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set-up</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campfire set-up and Safety</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Setup</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Started</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What to Look for</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Got a catch?</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etiquette</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What to Bring</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where to Go</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakdown and Cleanup</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Properly dispose your waste</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t take anything home</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect Wildlife</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be considerate of other visitors.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving the campsite</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troubleshooting</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

This manual is designed to show you how to camp for a weekend for four adults at the Ray Roberts Lake State Park. This manual includes a description for preparation of a camping trip, including a detailed gear list, setting up a camp site, activities, breakdown and cleanup of your campsite. The activities section has things like fishing and cooking. Campers will want to use these instructions chronologically. This manual would be best used during the spring.
Chapter 1

Preparation & Travel
Chapter 1

Preparation

Checking Environmental Conditions

The weather can vary greatly at Lake Ray Roberts based on the time of year. The environment will influence your camping trip in the following ways:

- Wet conditions can mean a lot of mud. Mud will increase the difficulty of hiking and driving.
- Dry conditions can cause the park to initiate a burn ban. A burn ban means no campfires are allowed.
- The air and water temperature will determine what type of clothing or swimming attire to bring.

For a detailed local forecast, visit the following websites and search by zip code 76258:

- Weather.com
- WUnderground.com.

The Ray Roberts Lake State Park page on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website located at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/ray-roberts-lake can provide additional information about trail conditions and burn bans. Here is some information about the Lake Ray Roberts area in the month of March:

- Average high is 68 degrees F
- Average low is 44 degrees F
- Average rainfall is 3.23 inches

Source: weather.com
Making Reservations

Selecting a campsite
Before making a reservation you must determine which campsite you want. There are five different camping areas each containing multiple sites. We recommend selecting any of the 75 numbered sites in the Deer Ridge Area. These sites have:

- Restrooms nearby
- Picnic table
- Fire ring
- Tent pad
- Lantern post

Making a Reservation by Phone
A reservation is not required to camp at Isle Du Bois but it is recommended to ensure you will have a campsite available when you arrive. To make a reservation by phone:

1. Call Ray Roberts State Park at (940) 686-2148
2. Inform the operator you would like to reserve one campsite at Isle Du Bois for 2 nights.
3. Specify which campsite you would prefer
4. The operator will inform you of campsite availability
5. Select an available campsite and confirm your reservation with the operator.

Fees
In order to camp at Isle Du Bois, you will need pay the following fees:

- $7 per person per day
- $15 per night for campsite
Transportation

Before you set out to Isle Du Bois, you will have to decide how you will get there. This manual recommends carpooling in a full size truck with extended cab. Follow this route:
Follow these steps to reach Ray Roberts State Park from UNT campus:

**Drive 20.8 miles, 29 min**

1. Head north on Ave D/N Texas Blvd toward Wilshire St
2. Turn right onto Eagle Dr
3. Turn left onto Carroll Blvd
4. Turn right onto W University Dr
5. Take the Texas 288 Loop exit on the left
6. Merge onto TX288 Loop N
7. Take the Farm to Market Rd 428 exit toward Denton/Aubrey
8. Turn right onto FM428 E/E Sherman Dr
9. Turn left onto FM2153
10. Turn right onto Running Bear Rd
11. Turn right onto E Chapman Rd

**Ray Roberts Lake State Park**

100 Fw 4137, Pilot Point, TX 76258

Source: Google maps
What to Bring

Items listed in red indicate essential, must-have equipment. Everything else is optional or to the camper’s preference.

Campsite

☐ Tent
☐ Sleeping bags
☐ Sleeping pads
☐ Pillows
☐ Multi-tool or knife
☐ Folding chairs
☐ Mallet or hammer (for tent stakes)
☐ Flashlights (with extra batteries, bulbs)
☐ Lanterns (with mantles, if needed)
☐ Lantern fuel or batteries
☐ Fishing gear (and license)

Clothing and Footwear

Chilly nights are possible, come prepared.

☐ Moisture-wicking T-shirts
☐ Moisture-wicking underwear
☐ Quick-drying pants/shorts
☐ Long-sleeve shirts (for sun, bugs)
☐ Sun-shielding hats
☐ Swimsuits
☐ Bandanas or buffs
☐ Boots or shoes suited to terrain
☐ Socks (synthetic or wool)
☐ Long underwear
☐ Sleepwear
☐ Insulating jacket or vest
☐ Insulated pants
☐ Gloves or mittens
☐ Rainwear (jacket and pants)
☐ Clothesline with clips
❑ Water sandals
❑ In-camp sandals or booties
Select according to personal tastes and needs:

- Stove
- Fuel
- Matches/lighter
- Firewood (plus saw or axe)
- Grill rack
- Frying pan
- Cook pots
- Bottle opener/corkscrew
- Can opener
- Recipes
- Marshmallow/wiener roasting sticks
- Food-storage containers
- Resealable storage bags
- Trash bags
- Coolers
- Ice
- Water bottles
- Plates, bowls, mixing bowls
- Mugs/cups
- Utensils
- Paring knife
- Spatula
- Whisk
- Kitchen organizer
- Cutting board or cutting surface
- Foil
- Egg holder(s)
- Biodegradable soap
- Pot scrubber/sponge(s)

Food

- Coffee
- Cereal/granola/oatmeal
- Eggs (freeze-dried or fresh)
- Breakfast bars
- Bread/bagels
- Meat (fresh and jerky)
- Cooking oil/spray
- Salt/pepper
- Bottled/canned beverages
- Energy food (bars, gels, trail mix)
- Fruit (dried and fresh)
- Cheese
- Crackers/chips
CHAPTER 1

CAMPING AT LAKE RAY ROBERTS

Personal Items

Tip: To more easily locate gear, keep similar items in a single duffel.

- Toilet paper
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Insect repellent
- Hand sanitizer
- First Aid Kit
- Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Toothbrush, toiletry kit
- Biodegradable soap

Other Items

- Camera
- Memory cards/film
- Binoculars
- Campsite reservation confirmation
- Maps
- Cell phone
- Umbrella

Fun Stuff (optional)

- Playing cards
- Fishing pole
- Tackle Box
- Rolling ice cream maker
- Kick-around foot bag
- Kites
- Geocaching materials (with GPS receivers)
- Paddle ball set
- Flying discs
- Puzzles (crosswords, etc.)
- Board games
- Water toys
- Electronic toys

Source: REI.com
Chapter 2

Setup

Camping
Out here it’s all earth and sky.
Reconnect with the basics of life.
Chapter 2
Setting up. Tents, Campfire and Food safety.

Step 1 - Unpack the tent and all of its parts.
- Tent (1)
- Tent poles (4)
- Metal Stakes (4)

Step 2 - Unfold the tent and lay it on a cleared landscape or tent pads.
- Separate each items and make sure you have everything you need.
- To wake up to the sunrise face your tent towards the east.

Step 3 - Connect your 4 tent poles to each other.
- Connect the labeled A pole to the B pole.
- Outcome looks should look like a half oval.
Step 3 – cont.

- Repeat the steps for the remaining poles.
- Insert the two halves oval poles into the side for the tent.
- Entry points are indicated on the tent.

Step 4 - Stake down the 4 corners of your tent with the metal stake.

- Search of the entry points.
- Securely nail down the tent with the metal stakes.

(Your tent should look like this one in the image above)

Info Tip!

Practice setting up your tent before you go camping.

- Set up your tent at least twice at home before leaving
- Practice makes perfect.
Campfire set-up and Safety
- Minimize campfire impact.
- Build small fire only if necessary.
- Build a fort around the fire.
- Burn only wood or coal.
- Burn the wood or coal to ash
- Scatter the cool ash afterwards.

CAUTION!

Make sure that you are following seasonal fire rules while making fires at Lake Ray Roberts State Park!

Food Setup
- Sanitation and proper storage of food is very important.
- Wash your hands before and after handling food.
- Use clean utensils when prepping food.
- Bring coolers for meats and dairy products.
- Keep hot food hot and cold food cold.
- Don’t leave trash around your camp site.

For more answers on how to safely set up and prep your food visit
- www.fsis.usda.gov
- Search “Camping”
- Click on the first link.
Chapter 3

Fishing

FISHING IS FUN

Why is it so big?
I don't have a clue...

motifake.com
Fishing

Getting Started
Before you start fishing, the law requires that you buy a fishing license. A license to fish in freshwater in Texas costs $30.00 for one year. You can purchase one and print it out online by going to this website:

- [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/licenses/online_sales/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/licenses/online_sales/)

Finding a good spot can be challenge. Here are some recommended fishing spots

- Points
- Entrance to channels
- Shallow flats

Safety
Be aware of all dangers while fishing

- Wildlife
- Sharp or pointy objects
- Others

Spiders can be a dangerous and unseen menace lurking in the shadows.

- Avoid putting your hands in small, dark, and damp places
- If bitten, identify the spider that bit you.
- The brown recluse is the most dangerous spider you will encounter
What to Look for

Largemouth Bass
- Use Carolina rig with plastic worms or lizards

White Bass
- Use Surface baits, jigs, spoons, or minnows

Channel Catfish
- Use Carolina rig with cut bait, stink bait, or shrimp

Got a catch?
Once you catch a fish use the hook removing tool to carefully take the hook out of the fish’s mouth.

- You can use a small amount of pressure to keep the fish still while removing the hook
- Catfish have sharp barbs on the side fins and the top fin.

Carefully return any fish you catch
- Make sure you return any fish you catch to the water undamaged

When you are done fishing clean up any of your gear that may have gotten dirty
- Remove all hooks from the fishing poles
Chapter 4

Cooking
Cooking

Getting Started
1. Check local rules for fire
2. If you can start a fire then set up your grill
3. Clean the grill if its dirty
4. Start the fire in the grill using charcoal
5. Clean your hands using the nearby amenities
6. Locate all cooking tools
7. Decide on what to eat
8. Locate the food you decided on

Food Safety
- Cook your food until internal temperature reaches 165 degrees Fahrenheit
- For eggs cook until solid
- Wash your hands
- Place the cooked food onto a clean container
- Serve on plates

Meals

Burgers
1. Take out a package of ground beef
2. Take out the burger buns
3. Thaw the meat if frozen
4. Season the meat
5. Mix the meat
6. Make the meat into circular patties a little bit larger than the burger bun’s diameter
7. Take out a bag of chips

Hot Dogs
1. Take out a package of weenies
2. Cook until brown or 165 degrees F
3. Take out a bag of chips

Breakfast
1. Take out the eggs
2. Take out a package of bacon
3. Take out a package of breakfast sausage
CHAPTER 4

CAMPING AT LAKE RAY ROBERTS

Clean Up
1. When everything is done throw away any trash
   - Use trash bag
   - Throw trash bags into dumpster

2. Put out the fire or hot coals that remain in your grill
   - Use water and stir until the coals stop smoking

3. Clean your grill for next use or for storage.

4. Store all food, tools, and supplies

Works Cited
Chapter 5

Hiking
Safety
Here are some tips for staying safe while hiking the trails:

- Be aware of your surroundings. Many other people use the trails for cycling and horseback riding.
- Dress appropriately. Wear lightweight, breathable clothing and hiking boots.
- Go with a buddy. Tell others where you plan to go.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Ask about trail conditions at the ranger station when you first arrive.
- Bring a cell phone or GPS unit in case you get lost.

Etiquette
In order to ensure the enjoyment of all trail users, each person must be considerate and behave with respect. Please observe the following guidelines while hiking:

- Leave no trace: if you pack it in, pack it out.
- Please stay on the trail.
- All users must yield to handicapped users.
- Cyclists should pass other trail users slowly and considerately.
- Hikers and cyclists should always yield to horses and make their presence known well in advance, then move aside to allow horses to pass if passing from the opposite direction.
- If passing horses from behind, hikers and bikers should pass on the left after making the rider aware of their presence.
- Pets are permitted on the trails, but must be under control and on a leash at all times.

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife

What to Bring

- Backpack, daypack, or fanny pack
- Supportive footwear for the length and terrain of your hike
- Extra clothing / layers (in case of cold weather)
- Water: full canteen, water bottle or hydration pack
- High energy snacks
- Map
- Compass
- Pocket knife
- Flashlight or headlamp with batteries
- Whistle (in case you got lost)
- First aid kit
Insect repellent
Sun protection (sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm)
Baseball style hat / Wide-brimmed hat (protection from sun)

Where to Go

Randy Bell Scenic Trail
Isle Du Bois has many trails to hike including Elm Fork Trail, Jordan Park Trail, and Randy Bell Scenic Trail. The Randy Bell Trail also known as the center loop is a fun and easy hike for beginners:

- 2.2 miles in length
- Takes approximately an hour to hike
- Trail Difficulty: Easy
- Stays close to campsite
- No horses to worry about
- Cycling allowed
Chapter 6

Breakdown & Cleanup
Things to consider while camping.

Properly dispose your waste.
- Locate all trash in your campsite, pack it up and throw it away. Red trash cans are for hazardous materials.
- Dispose human waste in an 8 inch deep cathole, at least 67 yards away from Campsite and trails and any body of water.

Don’t take anything home.
- Leave all awesome things you find alone, let it be awesome in its natural surroundings.

Respect Wildlife.
- Leave untrained pets at home
- Avoid wildlife during, mating, winter or nesting times.

Be considerate of other visitors.
- The Golden rule, Treat other as you would like to be treated
- Be nice, have fun.

Source: https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles
Leaving the campsite.

- Assign responsibility.
- Take your time.
- Most important of all!!!

*Leave the campsite in better condition than you found it.*
Troubleshooting

Setup

• If any of your stakes get bent you can straighten them using a hard flat surface and the tool used to drive the stake in.
• If the tent is hot at night you can rotate your tent towards the wind so the wind circulates inside the tent.

Hiking

• If you don’t know where to go, follow park signs or consult a map.

Fishing

• If you get your line stuck in the water try pulling on it from different angles.
• If the line doesn’t come loose then you can either carefully pull on the line with your hand until it breaks or cut your line as far as you can to attempt to save as much fishing line as possible.
• If your line continues to get stuck in the water either move to another location or try to pull the line in faster so the end of the line will stay near the top of the water while you reel.
• If you hook yourself or another person seek medical attention immediately.
• If you cut yourself or prick yourself apply first aid to prevent any infection from the hooks or knives.

Cooking

• If you have trouble keeping your fire on then look for an airflow system on your grill and make sure it allows air to flow below your fire.
• If your fire is too hot then cut off the air flow from the bottom of your grill using the airflow system.
• If your food is frozen keep the food in a container and run lukewarm water over the container until it thaws out.
• If you burn yourself and the burn is minor run it under cool water and apply first aid.
• Minor burns do not blister.
• If you severely burn yourself seek medical attention immediately.
• If an uncontrolled fire starts outside the designated area call 911 and report it immediately.
Index

Fees, 4
Long underwear, 7
Making a Reservation by Phone, 4
Maps, 5
Metal Stakes(4), 13
Minimize campfire impact., 15
Personal Items, 9
Rainwear (jacket and pants), 7
Respect Wildlife., iii, 26
Search, 15
Search of the entry points., 14

Selecting a campsite, 4
https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles
REI.com, 9
weather.com, 3
Tent (1), 13
Tent pad, 4
Tent poles(4), 13
The Golden rule, 26
Transportation, iii, 5
Weather.com, 3
WUnderground.com, 3
www.fsis.usda.gov, 15