



4/5/2026

Greetings,

As Executive Director of Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center, I want to personally share an update on our progress as we actively advance through the State of Texas Youth Camp licensing process.

We are working in close coordination with state leadership and other camp leaders across Texas to review, strengthen, and refine all operational plans to ensure full alignment with both longstanding requirements and newly enacted regulations. In preparation for the upcoming camp season, we have made substantial investments in safety and infrastructure. These include enhanced weather monitoring capabilities, comprehensive updates to our Emergency Action Plans (EAP), and the addition of redundant internet services. To support this requirement, we have been under contract for fiber optic installation since **November 2025** and are currently awaiting final implementation.

Our updated Emergency Action Plan has been submitted and is pending final approval by the state. Like many camps across Texas, we are currently awaiting completion of the state's review process. **We are in frequent communication with state officials and have received encouraging reports that summer camp will proceed as planned.**

On a personal note, summer camp has been a part of my life for over 30 years—as a camper, a sponsor, a leader, a board member, and now as the Executive Director of Highland Lakes Camp. Every summer has brought new friendships, new challenges, and meaningful spiritual growth. Today, my family lives on camp year-round, and the safety of my family—as well as the families of our staff—is a daily priority.

As we have carefully reviewed our policies, procedures, and the realities of daily life on camp, I am confident that Highland Lakes Camp is a safe place to raise my family and a safe place to welcome others from across Texas. While risks exist everywhere in life, we believe deeply in the responsibility to be prepared, to remain vigilant, and to take decisive action to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We are confident and excited about the season ahead. These improvements and the state's rigorous review process reflect a shared commitment to the highest standards of safety, preparedness, and accountability. Highland Lakes Camp remains dedicated to providing a secure, enriching, and memorable experience for every camper and family we serve.

Our Camper Safety webpage, which will outline these enhancements in detail, will be published immediately upon final approval of our Emergency Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Steven Gaither
Executive Director
Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center