

Texas Register

Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 3	ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILS, AND BOARDS
Rule 53.8	Youth Camp Advisory Committee
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	No Rule Available

(a) Statutory authority. The Youth Camp Advisory Committee (YCAC) is established under Texas Health and Safety Code §141.010.

(b) Purpose. The YCAC advises the executive commissioner and Department of State Health Services (DSHS) on the development of youth camp standards and procedures.

(c) Tasks. The YCAC performs the following tasks:

(1) makes recommendations to the executive commissioner regarding the content of the rules adopted to implement Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 141;

(2) performs any other functions requested by the executive commissioner in the implementation and administration of Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 141; and

(3) may adopt rules for the conduct of its own activities.

(d) Reporting requirements. The presiding officer must sign and file an annual written report with DSHS and the executive commissioner by January 15, covering the meetings and activities in the previous fiscal year. The report includes:

(1) a list of the meeting dates of the YCAC and any subcommittees;

(2) the members' attendance records;

(3) a brief description of actions taken by the YCAC;

(4) a description of how the YCAC accomplished its tasks;

(5) a description of activities the YCAC anticipates undertaking in the next fiscal year; and

(6) recommended amendments to this section.

(e) Meetings.

(1) Open meetings. The YCAC complies with the requirements for open meetings under Texas Government Code Chapter 551, as if it were a governmental body.

(2) Frequency. The YCAC will meet at least annually and at the call of the DSHS commissioner or the DSHS commissioner's designee.

(3) Quorum. A simple majority of the members of the YCAC who are appointed constitutes a quorum for the purpose of transacting official business.

(f) Membership.

(1) The YCAC is composed of nine voting members appointed by the executive commissioner or the executive commissioner's designee. In selecting voting members to serve on the YCAC, the executive commissioner considers the applicants' qualifications, background, interest in serving, and geographic location. The YCAC consists of:

(A) one member from the general public;

(B) one member from the general public with expertise in specialized program safety, such as archery, firearms, or challenge courses;

(C) one parent of a child who was a camper in the past two years;

(D) one day camp operator;

(E) one camp operator with experience in wilderness or primitive activities;

(F) one residential camp operator operating a youth camp that provides overnight accommodations for 500 or more campers per year;

(G) one residential camp operator operating a youth camp that provides overnight accommodations for 499 or fewer campers per year;

(H) one waterfront safety expert; and

(I) one pediatric psychologist, psychiatrist, or child abuse expert.

(2) Members are appointed for staggered six-year terms, with the terms of three members expiring on August 31 of each odd-numbered year. Regardless of the term limit, a member serves until his or her replacement is appointed. This ensures sufficient, appropriate representation.

(A) If a vacancy occurs, the executive commissioner or the executive commissioner's designee will appoint a person to serve the unexpired portion of that term.

(B) Except as may be necessary to stagger terms, the term of each member is six years.

(g) Officers. The YCAC:

(1) must annually elect a chairperson from among its members who will serve as the presiding officer and preside over the YCAC; and

(2) may elect a vice-chairperson and a secretary from among its members.

(h) Required training. Each member must complete training on relevant statutes and rules, including this section; Texas Government Code Chapters 551, 552, and 2110; the Health and Human Services (HHS) Ethics Policy; the Advisory Committee Member Code of Conduct; and other relevant HHS policies. Training will be provided by DSHS.

(i) Travel reimbursement. To the extent permitted by the current General Appropriations Act, a member of the YCAC may be reimbursed for the member's travel to and from meetings if funds are appropriated and available and in accordance with the DSHS Travel Policy.

(j) Abolishment date. The YCAC is abolished and this section expires December 31, 2030.

The agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it

to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority.

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Texas Register

Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.11	Definitions
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, have the following meanings, unless the content clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Act--Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act, Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 141.
- (2) Adult--A person at least 18 years of age or older.
- (3) Broadband service--Internet service with the capability of providing a:
 - (A) speed of not less than 100 megabits per second for a download;
 - (B) speed of not less than 20 megabits per second for an upload; and
 - (C) network round-trip latency of less than or equal to 100 milliseconds based on the 95th percentile of speed measurements.
- (4) Cabin--A structure used to provide temporary sleeping quarters for campers.
- (5) Camper--A minor child, younger than 18 years of age, who is attending a youth camp on either a day or boarding basis.
- (6) Challenge course--Activity designed for educational purposes or team building, which may offer a variety of challenges, including zip lines, high and low rope courses, rappelling, and climbing walls.
- (7) Commissioner--The commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services.
- (8) Day camp--A camp that operates during the day or any portion of the day between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. for four or more consecutive days and that offers no more than two overnight stays during each camp session. To be eligible to be licensed as a youth camp, the camp's schedule must be structured so that each camper attends for four hours or more per day for four consecutive days. The term does not include a facility that is required to be licensed with the Health and Human Services Commission.
- (9) Department--Texas Department of State Health Services.
- (10) Executive commissioner--Executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.
- (11) Firearm--Any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or a burning substance, or any device

readily convertible to that use.

(12) Floodplain--Any area within a 100-year floodplain identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 4001 et seq.). This term includes any area removed from the 100-year floodplain by a letter of map amendment, a letter of map revision based on fill, or a substantially similar administrative process conducted by FEMA.

(13) Floodway--An area identified on the most recent flood hazard map published by FEMA under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. Section 4001 et seq.) as a regulatory floodway.

(14) Governmental entity--This state or a state agency or political subdivision of this state.

(15) Municipal water supply--A public water supply owned or operated by or for a city or a corporation having the right of administering local government.

(16) Pellet gun--Any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using compressed air or carbon dioxide. This definition includes air guns, air rifles, BB guns, and paintball guns.

(17) Permanent structure--Man-made buildings such as dining halls, dormitories, cabins, or other buildings that are constructed to remain stationary.

(18) Person--An individual, partnership, corporation, association, or organization. In rules for this subchapter, a person does not include a government or governmental subdivision.

(19) Playground--A designated area designed for campers to play freely on equipment as defined in the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Publication Number 325, "Public Playground Safety Handbook," July 2025 as amended.

(20) Primitive camp--A youth camp that does not provide either permanent structures or utilities for camper use.

(21) Public water system--A public water system, as defined in 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.38 (relating to Definitions) is a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, which includes all uses described under the definition for drinking water in 30 TAC §290.38. Such a system must have at least 15 service connections or serve at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year. This term includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under the control of the operator of such system and used primarily in connection with such system, and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under such control that are used primarily in connection with such system. Two or more systems with

each having a potential to serve less than 15 connections or less than 25 individuals but owned by the same person, firm, or corporation and located on adjacent land will be considered a public water system when the total potential service connections in the combined systems are 15 or greater or if the total number of individuals served by the combined systems total 25 or greater at least 60 days out of the year. Without excluding other meanings of the terms "individual" or "served," an individual must be deemed to be served by a water system if he lives in, uses as his place of employment, or works in a place to which drinking water is supplied from the system.

(22) Resident camp--A camp that for a period of four or more consecutive days continuously provides residential services to each camper, including overnight accommodations for at least three consecutive nights.

(23) Supervised--A person is supervised if the person is within sight, except for infrequent momentary periods such as restroom breaks, and within reasonable hearing distance of a camper's outcry, of an adult with an obligation to report inappropriate or dangerous activities or behavior who has been made aware that the obligation is in effect at that time and who has willingly accepted the obligation. This definition is applicable only to rules relating to unsupervised contact with campers.

(24) Supervisor/counselor--A person, at least 18 years of age or older, who is responsible for the immediate supervision of campers.

(25) Swim test--A formalized test, specific to the body of water utilized, to determine each child's swimming ability. A swim test includes a skill evaluation, or some equivalent method of determining swimming ability, such as the following.

(A) A non-swimmer gets into the shallow water, sits down, stands up, and exits the water.

(B) An intermediate swimmer jumps feet first into water at least twelve inches deeper than the height of the child, levels off, swims 25 feet, turns around and swims back, then exits the water.

(C) A swimmer jumps feet-first into water at least twelve inches deeper than the height of the child and swims 75 yards in a strong stroke on the stomach or side (breaststroke, sidestroke, crawl, trudgen, or any combination); then swims 25 yards on the back (elementary back stroke), floats and rests on the back for one minute, then exits the water.

(26) TCEQ--Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(27) Travel camp--A day or resident camp, lasting for four or more consecutive days, that

begins and ends at a fixed location, but may move from location to location on a daily basis.

(28) Waterfront--A natural or artificial body of water that includes a lake, ocean, bay, pond, river, swimming pool, or spa, which is the site of any water activity.

(29) Waterfront activity--A recreational or instructional activity, occurring in, on, or near a waterfront. Waterfront activity includes swimming, boating, water skiing, scuba diving, rafting, tubing, synchronized swimming, or sailing.

(30) Youth camp--A facility or property, other than a facility required to be licensed by the Health and Human Services Commission, that:

(A) has the general characteristics of a day camp, resident camp, or travel camp;

(B) provides supervision and instruction in recreational, athletic, religious, or educational activities;

(C) during a camp session, offers at least two youth camp specialized activities in an outdoor setting;

(D) accommodates at least five minors during each camp session who attend or temporarily reside at the camp, apart from parents or guardians, for all or part of at least four consecutive days;

(E) operates as a youth camp for four consecutive hours or more per day;

(F) operates as a youth camp only during school vacation periods;

(G) operates as a youth camp for no more than 120 days each calendar year; and

(H) is not a facility or program operated by or on the campus of an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education as those terms are defined by the Texas Education Code§61.003, that is regularly inspected by one or more local governmental entities for compliance with health and safety standards.

(31) Youth camp specialized activity--A camp activity such as waterfront activities, archery, horseback riding, challenge courses, or riflery that requires special technical skills, equipment, or safety regulations, and a high level of adult supervision at all times.

(32) Youth camp operator--Any person who owns, operates, controls, or supervises a youth camp, whether or not for profit.

The agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority.

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Texas Register

Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.18	Fire Prevention
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

(a) Fire and safety codes. Facilities at all youth camps that meet the definition of a campground as defined in Texas Health and Safety Code Section 762.001(2), except those described in subsection (d) of this section, must comply with the National Fire Protection Association 1194, Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds, 2021 Edition, other than Sections 1.1.1 and 5.1.1.1. Facilities at all youth camps must meet local fire and safety codes.

(b) Fire exits in buildings. All buildings where groups of people live, eat, sleep, or assemble must have ready exits for use in case of fire and these exits must be conspicuously marked.

(c) Storage of flammable or explosive materials. Containers of gasoline, flammables, or explosives must be plainly marked and stored in a locked area separate and apart from any permanent and semi-permanent structures used by campers. The presence of flammable or explosive materials must be kept to a minimum.

(d) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to a youth camp owned or controlled by a governmental entity. A governmental entity may adopt a policy, rule, ordinance, or order to regulate environmental health and sanitation, electrical distribution system safety, liquefied petroleum gas storage and dispensing safety, or fire protection only if the policy, rule, ordinance, or order does not impose standards more stringent than the standards described under subsection (a) of this section.

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Texas Register

Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.23	Application and Denial of a New License; Non-transferable
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

(a) License required. A person must possess a valid youth camp license prior to operating a youth camp.

(1) Submitting an application. A complete application to operate a youth camp must be submitted to and received by the department's Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Branch between January 1 and March 31 of each calendar year, and include:

(A) an activity schedule showing dates and detailed information about the activities that are conducted both at the camp and at other locations;

(B) an emergency plan, as described in §265.31 of this subchapter (related to Emergency Preparedness and Response);

(C) the estimated number of campers attending the camp during the upcoming calendar year;

(D) any other requested documents and information; and

(E) the license fee, as described in §265.28 of this subchapter (relating to Fees).

(2) Applications and fees. Applications and fees may be submitted online to <https://vo.ras.dshs.state.tx.us>.

(3) Qualifying for a youth camp license. Subject to subsection (j) of this section, a facility qualifies for a youth camp license if the facility:

(A) meets the definition of a "youth camp," as described in §265.11 of this subchapter (relating to Definitions); and

(B) is in compliance, or has demonstrated a plan for compliance, with all provisions of the Act and the rules before operation as determined by:

(i) submitting a complete application as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

(ii) passing a pre-licensing inspection conducted by the department, using the standard youth camp inspection form that may be found at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/youth-camp-program/applications-forms-youth-camp-program>.

(b) Processing applications.

(1) A complete application must be submitted to the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Branch at least 90 calendar days before camp operations begin. An application is considered incomplete until all required documentation, information, and fees are received. If the application is incomplete, the department issues a deficiency notice, including identification of deficiencies, a deadline for deficiency corrections, and the need for a pre-licensing inspection.

(2) Upon receipt of an application, the department issues the following documents in accordance with policy, as applicable:

(A) a license after the date of successfully passing the pre-licensing inspection--within 45 days;

(B) a letter of application deficiency--within 45 days; or

(C) a letter of pre-licensing inspection deficiency at the conclusion of the pre-licensing inspection.

(i) The camp must provide proof of all deficiency corrections, except for corrections to the emergency plan, within 10 days after the inspection or before camp operation, whichever comes first.

(ii) The camp must provide proof of all deficiency corrections for the emergency plan. The proof must be provided within 45 days after the camp received the department letter of pre-licensing inspection deficiency.

(3) In the event that an application for a new license is not processed within 120 days, and no good cause exists for the delay, the applicant may request reimbursement of all fees paid in that particular application process so long as a complete application was submitted at least 120 calendar days prior to camp operation. Requests for reimbursement must be made in writing to the Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Branch. Good cause for exceeding the time period is considered to exist if the number of applications for licensure exceeds by 15% or more the number of applications processed the same calendar quarter of the preceding year or any other condition exists giving the department good cause for exceeding the time period.

(4) If the request for reimbursement as authorized by paragraph (3) of this subsection is denied, the applicant may then appeal to the commissioner for a resolution of the dispute. The applicant must give written notice to the commissioner requesting reimbursement of

the fee paid because the application was not processed within the established time period. The department submits a written report of the facts related to the processing of the application and good cause for exceeding the established time periods. The commissioner makes the final decision and provides written notification of the decision to the applicant and to the department.

(c) Record availability. All records, except criminal background and sex offender registration database checks (including any written evaluation for any staff member or volunteer with a criminal conviction or deferred adjudication), required by this subchapter must be made available to the department immediately upon request. Criminal background and sex offender registration database checks (including any written evaluation for any staff member or volunteer with a criminal conviction or deferred adjudication) must be made available to the department within two business days upon request.

(d) Term of license. The term of a youth camp license is one year, beginning on the date of issuance.

(e) License non-transferable. A youth camp license is not transferable and may not be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred. Any new business entity that acquires the operation of a youth camp through sale, assignment, or other transfer must obtain a new license.

(f) Ownership change. A new application, fee, pre-licensing inspection, and license is required if there is a change in ownership.

(g) Name change. If a camp changes its name during operation, but does not change location or ownership, then a new license certificate may be issued if requested by email to youthcamps.reg@dshs.texas.gov. A nonrefundable fee of \$20 will be assessed.

(h) Location change. A new application, fee, pre-licensing inspection, and license is required if there is a change in physical camp location.

(i) Duplicate license. A duplicate license may be issued if requested by email to youthcamps.reg@dshs.texas.gov. A nonrefundable fee of \$20 will be assessed.

(j) Denials.

(1) The department may deny an application for licensing to applicants who fail to meet the standards established by the Act and this subchapter. In making this determination, the department considers any violation by the applicant of the Act or this subchapter, including employment of an individual who was convicted of an act of sexual abuse, as defined by Texas Penal Code §21.02, that occurred at the camp. When the department proposes to

deny an application, the department gives notice of the proposed action in writing and provides information on how to request an administrative hearing. The applicant must submit a written request for a hearing within 30 days from the date of the department's notice letter. The hearing is conducted in accordance with the Act; Texas Government Code Chapter 2001, the Administrative Procedure Act; and the formal hearing procedures in Chapter 1 of this title (relating to Miscellaneous Provisions).

(2) A letter of denial of licensure may be issued within 60 days after the receipt of application if the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(A) of this section.

(3) A letter of denial of licensure may be issued if the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(B) of this section:

(A) within 60 days following the first scheduled date of camp operations if a pre-licensing inspection has not been completed; or

(B) within 60 days following the first scheduled date of camp operations if the camp does not pass the pre-licensing inspection.

(4) A license holder whose license has been revoked may not reapply for a new license for two years from the date of final revocation.

(k) Refunds.

(1) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(A) of this section, the application may be denied and the license fee, less a handling fee of \$50, may be refunded. If an application is denied because the facility does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(A) of this section, the applicant should determine if a license from another agency is required.

(2) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(B) of this section, the application may be denied and the license fee may not be refunded.

The agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the adoption and found it to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority.

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.24	Application and Denial of a Renewal License
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

(a) Renewal of a youth camp license. A youth camp operator holding a license issued under this chapter must submit a complete renewal application to operate a youth camp. A renewal application must be submitted:

(1) annually to the department's Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Branch between January 1 and March 31 of each calendar year; and

(2) no later than the 30th day after the date the youth camp operator:

(A) alters the boundaries of a youth camp;

(B) completes construction of one or more new cabins located on the premises; or

(C) completes any renovation to one or more existing cabins located on the premises of the camp that:

(i) increases or decreases the number of beds in an affected cabin; or

(ii) alters the method of ingress or egress to an affected cabin.

(b) Renewal notice. At least 60 days before a license expires, the department, as a service to the licensee, may send a renewal notice to the licensee or registrant to the last address provided by the licensee. The licensee is responsible for renewing the license whether the licensee receives the department's notice or not. The renewal notice states:

(1) license type requiring renewal;

(2) time period allowed for renewal; and

(3) the amount of the renewal fee.

(c) Renewal requirements. Renewal applications and fees must be received by the department before the license's annual expiration date.

(1) Submitting an application. A complete renewal application must be submitted to the department and include:

(A) a completed youth camp renewal application;

(B) an activity schedule showing dates and detailed information about the activities that

are conducted both at the camp and at other locations;

(C) an emergency plan, including any updated emergency plan, as described in §265.31 of this subchapter (relating to Emergency Preparedness and Response);

(D) the estimated number of campers attending the camp during the upcoming calendar year;

(E) any other requested documents and information; and

(F) the renewal license fee as described in §265.28 of this subchapter (relating to Fees).

(2) Applications and fees. Applications and fees may be submitted online to <https://vo.ras.dshs.state.tx.us>.

(3) Qualifying for renewal of a youth camp license. Subject to subsection (k) of this section, the department issues a renewal license if the facility:

(A) meets the definition of a "youth camp," as described in §265.11 of this subchapter (relating to Definitions); and

(B) is in compliance with all provisions of the Act and the rules before operation as determined by:

(i) submitting a complete renewal application as described in this subsection;

(ii) passing a pre-licensing inspection conducted by the department, if required; and

(iii) complying with all final orders resulting from any violations of this subchapter before the application for renewal is submitted.

(d) Processing renewal applications.

(1) A complete application for a license renewal issued under this subchapter must be received by the department's Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Branch before the expiration date of the license or 45 days before camp operation, whichever is earlier.

(A) An application is considered incomplete until all required documentation, information, and fees are received.

(B) If the application is incomplete, the department issues a deficiency notice, including identification of deficiencies, a deadline for deficiency correction, and the need for a pre-licensing inspection.

(C) If a camp is subject to pre-licensing inspection, a renewal license is issued after the inspection is completed and compliance with the Act and this subchapter is confirmed.

(2) Upon receipt of an application, the department issues the following documents in accordance with policy, as applicable:

(A) a license--within 30 days;

(B) a letter of renewal application deficiency--within 30 days; or

(C) a letter of pre-licensing inspection deficiency at the conclusion of the pre-licensing inspection.

(i) The camp must provide proof of all deficiency corrections, except for corrections to the emergency plan, within 10 days after the inspection or before camp operation, whichever comes first.

(ii) The camp must provide proof of all deficiency corrections for the emergency plan. The proof must be provided within 45 days after the camp received the department letter of pre-licensing deficiency.

(3) In the event that a timely and complete application for license renewal is not processed within timeframe established in department policy, and no good cause exists for the delay, the applicant has the right to request reimbursement of all fees paid in that particular application process. Requests for reimbursement must be made by email to youthcamps.reg@dshs.texas.gov. Good cause for exceeding the time period is considered to exist if the number of applications for licensure exceeds by 15% or more the number of applications processed the same calendar quarter of the preceding year or any other condition exists giving the department good cause for exceeding the time period.

(4) If the request for reimbursement as authorized by paragraph (3) of this subsection is denied, the applicant may then appeal to the commissioner for a resolution of the dispute. The applicant must give written notice to the commissioner requesting reimbursement of the fee paid because the application was not processed within the established time period. The department submits a written report of the facts related to the processing of the application and good cause for exceeding the established time periods. The commissioner makes the final decision and provides written notification of the decision to the applicant and to the department.

(e) Late renewal. If a license is not renewed within one year after the expiration date, the

license cannot be renewed. A new license may be obtained by submitting a new application in compliance with §265.23 of this subchapter (relating to Application and Denial of a New License; Non-transferable). If the license is renewed after its expiration date, the renewed license expires on the date the license would have expired if the license had been renewed timely.

(f) Non-renewal. The department may refuse to renew a license if the applicant has not complied with all final orders resulting from any violations of these sections. Eligibility for license renewal may be reestablished by meeting all conditions of the orders and complying with the requirements of this section. The department may not renew the license of a youth camp that has not corrected deficiencies identified in a final order before the application for renewal is submitted. Corrections must be submitted to and approved by the department's Environmental and Sanitation Licensing Branch before submitting the renewal application.

(g) Application determination affecting license expiration. If a license holder submits a timely and complete license renewal application, the existing license does not expire until the application has been finally determined by the department. If a license holder submits a late or incomplete application and the application is denied, the existing license does not expire until the last day to request a review of the agency order or a later date granted by order of the reviewing court.

(h) Reapplication for license upon revocation. A license holder whose license has been revoked may not reapply for a new license for two years from the date of final revocation.

(i) Opportunity for a hearing. When the department proposes to deny an initial or renewal application, the department gives notice of the proposed action in writing and provides information on how to request an administrative hearing. The applicant must submit a written request for a hearing within 30 days from the date of the notice letter.

(j) Pre-licensing inspections. A youth camp applying for a license renewal may be subject to a pre-licensing inspection. Youth camps must be in compliance with all provisions of the Act and the rules before operation.

(k) Denials.

(1) The department may deny a renewal application for licensing to applicants who fail to meet the standards established by the Act and this subchapter. The department considers any violations by the applicant of the Act or this subchapter, including employment of an individual who was convicted of an act of sexual abuse, as defined by Texas Penal Code §21.02, that occurred at the camp. When the department proposes to deny a renewal

application, the department gives notice of the proposed action in writing and provides information on how to request an administrative hearing. The hearing is conducted in accordance with the Act; Texas Government Code Chapter 2001, the Administrative Procedure Act; and the formal hearing procedures in Chapter 1 of this title (relating to Miscellaneous Provisions).

(2) A letter of denial of license renewal may be issued within 60 days of the receipt of application if the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(A) of this section.

(3) A letter of denial of license renewal may be issued within 60 days following the first scheduled date of camp operations if the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(B) of this section.

(l) Refunds.

(1) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(A) of this section, the renewal application may be denied and the renewal license fee, less a handling fee of \$50, may be refunded. If an applicant is denied because the facility does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(A) of this section, the applicant should determine if a license from another agency is required.

(2) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(B) of this section, the renewal application may be denied and the renewal license fee may not be refunded.

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Texas Register

Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.28	Fees
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

(a) All applicable fees must be paid to the department before the department issues a license.

(b) For all initial and renewal applications, the department is authorized to collect subscription and convenience fees, to recover costs associated with electronic application and renewal application processing.

(c) The annual fees, not including subscription and convenience fees, are as follows:

(1) initial license day youth camp:

(A) 99 or less campers per year--\$950;

(B) 100 to 999 campers per year--\$1,150;

(C) 1,000 to 1,999 campers per year--\$2,000;

(D) 2,000 to 4,999 campers per year--\$2,600; and

(E) 5,000 or more campers per year--\$4,000;

(2) renewal license day youth camp:

(A) 99 or less campers per year--\$750;

(B) 100 to 999 campers per year--\$950;

(C) 1,000 to 1,999 campers per year--\$1,750;

(D) 2,000 to 4,999 campers per year--\$2,250; and

(E) 5,000 or more campers per year--\$3,500;

(3) initial license residential youth camp:

(A) 99 or less campers per year--\$2,150;

(B) 100 to 499 campers per year--\$2,500;

(C) 500 to 999 campers per year--\$6,500;

(D) 1,000 to 1,999 campers per year--\$12,000;

- (E) 2,000 to 4,999 campers per year--\$15,000;
- (F) 5,000 to 9,999 campers per year--\$18,000; and
- (G) 10,000 or more campers per year--\$21,000;

(4) renewal license residential youth camp:

- (A) 99 or less campers per year--\$1,900;
- (B) 100 to 499 campers per year--\$2,250;
- (C) 500 to 999 campers per year--\$5,500;
- (D) 1,000 to 1,999 campers per year--\$10,000;
- (E) 2,000 to 4,999 campers per year--\$13,500;
- (F) 5,000 to 9,999 campers per year--\$16,500; and
- (G) 10,000 or more campers per year--\$19,500.

(d) Miscellaneous fees are as follows:

- (1) duplicate license fee--\$20;
- (2) camp name change during operation--\$20; and
- (3) non-sufficient fund fee--\$20.

(e) Late fees will be assessed for applications received after March 31 as follows:

- (1) initial late fee--\$500; and
- (2) renewal late fee--\$250.

(f) An applicant or licensee whose license fee payment is returned for any reason, including insufficient funds, account closed, or payment stopped, must pay the department the amount of the license fee within 30 days after the date of the department's notice. An application is incomplete until the fee is received and cleared through the appropriate financial institution.

(g) The department may notify the applicant or the license holder that the person has failed to comply with this section and that any license issued is invalid.

(h) Initial application or renewal fees are refunded only if the fee amounts paid exceed the correct fee amount or if there is a double payment. The department does not refund fees if the applicant fails to respond to a written request from the department within 90 days.

(i) All fees must be submitted online at <https://vo.ras.dshs.state.tx.us>.

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.29	Youth Camp Safety Multidisciplinary Team
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

(a) The Youth Camp Safety Multidisciplinary Team (YCSMT) is composed of at least one representative from:

- (1) the department;
- (2) the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM);
- (3) the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), State Fire Marshal's Office;
- (4) the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD);
- (5) the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB);
- (6) the Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS); and
- (7) the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

(b) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee serves as the chair of the team.

(c) The YCSMT meets regularly to develop proposed minimum standards for youth camps. The YCSMT presents the proposed minimum standards to the executive commissioner as recommendations for adoption.

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.30	Waiver; Appeal
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

(a) The department may grant a waiver from the requirements of this chapter to a program that meets the conditions described in Texas Health and Safety Code (HSC), §141.0025(a). The program seeking the waiver must provide proof to the department that the program meets the conditions described in HSC §141.0025(a) before the department may grant a waiver. To ensure the program continues to be eligible for a waiver, the department may require the program to resubmit proof of meeting the conditions described in HSC §141.0025(a) no more frequently than one time per calendar year or as part of an investigation described in subsection (c) of this section.

(b) A waiver granted by the department under subsection (a) of this section is valid until the waiver is revoked for cause by the department. Examples of cause for revocation include:

(1) the failure to ensure the health, safety, or welfare of persons at the program; or

(2) the failure to report abuse or neglect occurring at the program as required by Texas Family Code Chapter 261.

(c) The department may conduct an investigation in response to an allegation that there is cause to revoke a program's waiver or that a program no longer meets the conditions described in HSC §141.0025(a).

(d) A person who operates a program for which an application for a waiver under this section has been denied or for which a waiver under this section has been revoked may appeal the action in the manner provided for appeal of contested cases under Texas Government Code Chapter 2001. When the department proposes to deny or revoke a waiver granted under this section, it must give notice of the proposed action in writing and must provide information on how to request an administrative hearing. The program must make a written request for a hearing within 30 days from the date on the notice letter sent by the department.

(e) The department will not grant a waiver from the requirements provided in HSC §141.0091 or HSC Chapter 762.

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.31	Emergency Preparedness and Response
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	No Rule Available

(a) A youth camp operator must develop an emergency plan that:

(1) specifies areas where campers and camp staff are to gather in an emergency event that requires evacuation from any location within the premises of the camp;

(2) establishes procedures for responding to an emergency event, including:

(A) a lost camper;

(B) a fire on the premises;

(C) a severe injury, severe illness, serious accident, or death of one or more campers, visitors, camp staff, or camp volunteers that occurs:

(i) on camp premises; or

(ii) while under the supervision of camp staff;

(D) an aquatic emergency if the camp borders a watercourse, lake, pond, or any other body of water;

(E) an epidemic;

(F) an unauthorized or unknown individual present on the camp's premises;

(G) a transportation emergency; and

(H) any other applicable natural disaster, including flood, hurricane, tornado or wildfire; or emergency event;

(3) establishes procedures to identify and account for each camper affected by the emergency event;

(4) establishes procedures to notify and communicate with:

(A) local emergency management services, including the designated emergency management director or coordinator by the political subdivision where the camp is located;

(B) camp administrative and medical services staff; and

(C) the parents or legal guardians of each camper identified under paragraph (3) of this subsection; and

(5) designates a camp emergency preparedness coordinator.

(b) A youth camp operator must develop an emergency evacuation plan for:

(1) evacuating campers who are at a camp within a floodplain on issuance of a flash flood or flood warning;

(2) evacuating campers on issuance of an evacuation order by the emergency management director or coordinator for the county or, if applicable, the municipality in which the camp is located, due to wildfire, hurricane, or other disaster; and

(3) sheltering campers in place on issuance of:

(A) a tornado warning; or

(B) an order to shelter in place issued by the emergency management director or coordinator for the county or, if applicable, the municipality in which the camp is located.

(c) A youth camp operator must:

(1) implement the emergency evacuation plan developed under subsection (b)(1) of this section on issuance by the National Weather Service (NWS) of a flash flood or flood warning for an area of the camp; and

(2) implement the emergency evacuation plan developed under subsection (b)(3) of this section on issuance by the NWS of a tornado warning for an area of the camp.

(d) A youth camp operator must send a copy of an emergency evacuation plan developed under subsection (b) of this section to:

(1) the emergency management director or coordinator for the municipality (for camps located in a municipality); and

(2) the emergency management director or coordinator for the county.

(e) A youth camp operator must provide a copy of the camp's emergency plan not later than the 10th business day following the date the department approves the emergency plan or, if the department determines the plan is deficient under §265.23 of this subchapter (relating to Application and Denial of a New License; Non-transferable) or §265.24 of this subchapter (relating to Application and Denial of a Renewal License), the youth camp must provide a copy of the camp's revised and approved emergency plan to:

- (1) the designated emergency management director or coordinator for the municipality (for camps located in a municipality); and
- (2) the designated emergency management director or coordinator for the county.

(f) In developing the youth camp's emergency plan, a youth camp operator may consult with an emergency management director or coordinator described in subsection (d) of this section.

(g) A youth camp operator must:

- (1) provide the most recent version of a youth camp's emergency plan submitted under this section to the parent or legal guardian of:
 - (A) a camper who is participating in a camp session; or
 - (B) a camper who is registered to participate in a future camp session;
- (2) notify the parent or legal guardian of a camper described by paragraph (1) of this subsection if any area of the camp is located within a floodplain; and
- (3) ensure the parent or legal guardian signs and submits to the operator a statement acknowledging receipt of the notice required under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(h) A youth camp operator must:

- (1) maintain an operable radio providing real-time weather alerts issued by the NWS or a similar professional weather service at the camp;
- (2) install and maintain at the camp an emergency warning system:
 - (A) alerting all campers and camp occupants of an emergency; and
 - (B) including a public address system operable without reliance on an internet connection;

(3) monitor safety alerts issued:

(A) by the NWS or a similar professional weather service; and

(B) by local river authorities, if applicable to the camp, or through other local emergency notification systems; and

(4) certify the operator's compliance with this subsection.

(i) The youth camp operator or a youth camp staff member must conduct a mandatory safety orientation, not more than 48 hours after each youth camp session begins. The safety orientation:

(1) notifies each camper of the camp's boundaries and any hazards present on the camp premises;

(2) instructs each camper on behavioral expectations in an emergency event; and

(3) provides each camper developmentally appropriate instruction on the appropriate actions and procedures to follow in an emergency event, in accordance with the camp's emergency plan required under this section.

(j) At least once a year, a youth camp operator must:

(1) provide each youth camp staff member and volunteer a copy of the camp's most recent emergency plan;

(2) ensure each staff member and volunteer successfully completes training on the camp's emergency plan in compliance with any minimum standards and required hours established by department rule;

(3) instruct each staff member and volunteer on the proper procedures to follow in an emergency under the plan; and

(4) maintain written records documenting each staff member's and volunteer's successful completion of the training required under this subsection.

(k) A youth camp operator must:

(1) post the proper evacuation route described in the youth camp's emergency plan in a

conspicuous place in each cabin on the youth camp premises; and

(2) ensure each evacuation route on the camp premises is illuminated at night.

(l) A youth camp operator must notify the department as described in §265.24 of this subchapter of any modification to:

(1) a structure intended to facilitate youth camp activities; or

(2) the location of a camp activity on the camp's premises.

(m) On receiving notification of a modification described by subsection (l) of this section, the department may require the youth camp operator to update the youth camp's emergency plan.

(n) The department must store in a digital database each emergency plan submitted to the department under this section and provide access to that database to:

(1) TDEM; and

(2) each member of the Youth Camp Safety Multidisciplinary Team (YCSMT) created under §265.29 of this subchapter (relating to Youth Camp Safety Multidisciplinary Team).

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Texas Register

Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.32	Minimum Overnight Camper to Counselor Ratios
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	No Rule Available

The minimum camper to counselor ratios for overnight stays at youth camps are as follows.

- (1) For campers from four to five years of age--one counselor for every five campers.
- (2) For campers from six to eight years of age--one counselor for every six campers.
- (3) For campers from nine to 14 years of age--one counselor for every eight campers.
- (4) For campers from 15 to 17 years of age--one counselor for every 10 campers.

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.33	Online Youth Camp Registry
Issue Date	01/30/2026
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Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	No Rule Available

The department will post, maintain, and update on the department's internet website a list of each youth camp with an active license issued under this subchapter.

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.34	Additional Inspection Required; Parental Complaints
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	No Rule Available

(a) A youth camp operator's public-facing website must include a prominent, clearly marked link to the department's complaint website where campers, parents, camp staff, and volunteers can report noncompliance with the subchapter.

(b) The department will investigate each youth camp complaint filed with the department to ensure the youth camp operator is properly implementing the camp's approved emergency plan submitted as required under §265.31 of this subchapter (relating to Emergency Preparedness and Response).

(c) A department investigation under this section must include an inspection to ensure the youth camp's compliance with this subchapter. The inspection will be performed in the same manner as a compliance inspection, as described in §265.25 of this subchapter (relating to Inspections).

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.36	Prohibited Operation of Cabins within Floodplains
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	No Rule Available

(a) A youth camp must not operate a cabin located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identified 100-year floodplain, unless:

(1) each cabin located within a floodplain is a result of the cabin's proximity to a lake, pond, or other still body of water that:

(A) is not connected to a stream, river, or other watercourse; or

(B) is dammed; or

(2) each cabin is at least 1,000 feet from a floodway.

(b) A youth camp that operates a cabin within the floodplain as described in subsection (a) of this section must install and maintain an emergency ladder capable of providing access to the cabin's roof.

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
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Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.37	Redundant Internet Connections Required
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	No Rule Available

A youth camp operator must provide and maintain for a youth camp:

- (1) internet services through a broadband service that connects to the internet using end-to-end fiber optic facilities; and
- (2) a secondary internet connection through a broadband service distinct from the service described under paragraph (1) of this section.

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Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter B	TEXAS YOUTH CAMPS SAFETY AND HEALTH
Rule §265.29	Youth Camp Committee
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted Repeal
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Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter C	MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING FACILITIES
Rule §265.31	General Provisions
Issue Date	01/30/2026
Type	Adopted Repeal
Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

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Title 25	HEALTH SERVICES
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Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter C	MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING FACILITIES
Rule §265.32	Definitions
Issue Date	01/30/2026
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Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

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Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter C	MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING FACILITIES
Rule §265.33	Site and Physical Facilities
Issue Date	01/30/2026
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Preamble	View Preamble
Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

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Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter C	MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING FACILITIES
Rule §265.34	Procedures for Applications for Licenses to Operate Migrant Labor Housing Facilities
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Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

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Part 1	DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
Chapter 265	GENERAL SANITATION
Subchapter C	MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING FACILITIES
Rule §265.35	Hearings
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Texas Administrative Code Rule	View Rule

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