

Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation

Wildlife Research and Education

P. O. Box 1400 ♦ Sinton, Texas 78387-1400

Phone (361) 364-2643 ♦ Fax (361) 364-2650

welderfoundation@welderwildlife.org

www.welderwildlife.org

TRUSTEES

John J. Welder, V
H. C. Weil
Hughes C. Thomas

ADVISORY TRUSTEES

D. Lynn Drawe

STAFF

Terry L. Blankenship
Director
Selma N. Glasscock
Assistant Director

James G. Teer
Director Emeritus

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for your interest in the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation's education program. We offer structured, staff-guided, science-based programs on conservation, ecology, and managed use of south Texas wildlife resources. Programs range in length from half-day to 2 days of classroom and field activities. In addition, we offer 2 educational nature/hiking trails. Please see our guidelines for additional information regarding rates, times, trails, and program options.

It is important that you carefully review the NEWLY REVISED guidelines and discuss them with your group before your visit. Also, please review the enclosed schedule and if requested, please return the completed and signed confirmation form at least 3 weeks prior to your visit. We reserve the right to remove you from our schedule and replace your group if requested confirmation is not received within this timeline.

Each member of your group must complete:

- (1) a waiver of liability (page 6 of this packet), and
- (2) a photo release waiver (page 7 of this packet).

IMPORTANT: BOTH waivers must be signed by a parent or guardian if the individuals are under 18 years of age. Please duplicate both waivers and distribute to members of your group prior to your trip. Waivers and payment of any fees are due/required upon arrival at the Foundation.

We look forward to working with your group and hope your visit to the Welder Wildlife Foundation is educational, safe, and enjoyable.

Sincerely,



Selma Glasscock
Assistant Director



WELDER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

DAY & OVERNIGHT VISITS

Facilities use priority is given to groups who have a professional interest in natural resource conservation. Such groups will be accommodated in preference to all others.

The Welder Foundation staff provides educational experiences in conservation through lectures, workshops, symposia, and field exercises for all groups visiting the Foundation.

Sponsors are responsible for the conduct of their students. Please help us provide a safe, positive, fun learning experience for your group by discussing rules and guidelines in advance and enforcing proper behavior while at the refuge.

GROUP SIZE:

- A minimum of 10 individuals is required to schedule group visits.
- A maximum of 36 students and sponsors combined is allowed for overnight visits.
- We require that you have a minimum of one adult sponsor for every 10 students.
- Co-ed groups should have both male and female sponsors if staying overnight.

FACILITIES:

**PLEASE LEAVE ALL FACILITIES IN THE CONDITION IN WHICH THEY WERE FOUND!
IF ANY DAMAGES ARE INCURRED DURING YOUR STAY, YOUR GROUP WILL BE BILLED
FOR THE NECESSARY REPAIRS.**

- The Rotunda, a screened building with a kitchen, contains 2 refrigerators, range, ice machine, cook stove, cooking utensils, and eating utensils. All dishes, pots, and pans must be washed and put away. All food and leftovers should be removed from the refrigerators, and any spills wiped out with damp, soapy cloth. The floors should be swept and trash should be tied up in plastic bags and taken to the dumpsters located in the front of the main building. Benches and tables should be wiped down and returned to their original positions. All door and windows should be closed and lights turned off at departure. Day groups need to bring sack lunches and drinks (bus drivers included). **NO FOOD SERVICES OR VENDING MACHINES ARE AVAILABLE.** Overnight groups must furnish their own food and drinks.
- There are 36 beds in the Bunkhouse. One room sleeps 18 females, and one room sleeps 18 males. The floors should be swept and trash should be tied up in plastic bags and taken to the dumpsters located in the front of the main building. Benches and tables should be wiped down and returned to their original positions. All door and windows should be closed and lights turned off at departure.
- Individuals should bring bedrolls or sheets and blankets, pillows, towels, and toiletries.
- Bathing facilities are available both in Bunkhouse and Bathhouse (2 showers per gender in each facility). The floors should be swept and trash should be tied up in plastic bags and taken to the dumpsters located in the front of the main building.
- Cleaning supplies (brooms, paper towels, trash bags) are found in the Rotunda kitchen.
- Please help us conserve energy by **TURNING OFF ALL LIGHTS WHEN NOT IN USE AND DO NOT TAMPER WITH OR ADJUST AIR CONDITIONER THERMOSTATS.** Please ask the staff to adjust the thermostats if needed.
- We have 2 educational nature/hiking trails that may be used when time and weather permit (see guidelines).

FEES:

A. Overnight Use of Bunkhouse (Includes Rotunda for Cooking and Eating)

- Teacher workshops and field days, symposia conservation clubs, government organizations, other prof. organizations \$45/person/night
\$55/person/night with linens included
(Linens option for professional groups only)
- Elementary—12th grade school groups \$8/person/night
- College groups \$20/person/night

B. Day Use of Facilities

- School groups (elementary through college) No charge
- Non-school groups using Lecture Hall and/or Rotunda \$5/person or \$50/group minimum

Note: The Welder Wildlife Foundation library is available to visitors at no charge. Hours are Monday through Friday, (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Please call ahead to make appointments for library use.

GUIDELINES:

- Our gates are locked at all times, so groups must specify an **EXACT** arrival time and **CALL** the refuge (361-364-2643) prior to arrival or if delayed. **NO PHONE IS AVAILABLE AT THE GATE.**
- **NO ALCOHOL** is allowed with any college or school groups. Adult groups who wish to have alcohol on the premises **MUST** obtain permission from one of the WWF Directors prior to your visit.
- On overnight visits, **ALL SPONSORS** are required to stay in the Bunkhouse with their group.
- No specimens/remains of plants or animals may be taken off the refuge without permission from WWF Directors.
- Groups must always be accompanied on the refuge by a Welder **STAFF** member and by their sponsors, except on the Nature Trail behind the Bunkhouse.
- The Rotunda is located adjacent to the Graduate Student Dormitory. Dormitory residents and research scientists have projects that may require them to be working very late or early hours; therefore, it is imperative that your students are **QUIET** by **NO LATER THAN 11:00 P.M.**
- All students are expected to participate in our programs. Cell phones, MP3 players, etc. should be turned off/stored at all times during our programs. We expect sponsors to ensure proper participation and behaviour.
- Proper clothing is essential and includes long pants and sturdy, closed-toed shoes. If your group will be participating in any aquatic studies or kayaking, students should have shoes for wading and a change of clothes. If possible, we recommend that each student bring a pair of **BINOCULARS.**
- Sponsors should plan activities for times when a WWF staff member is not with your group or during down times following meals, etc.

Guidelines continued on next page.

GUIDELINES CONTINUED:

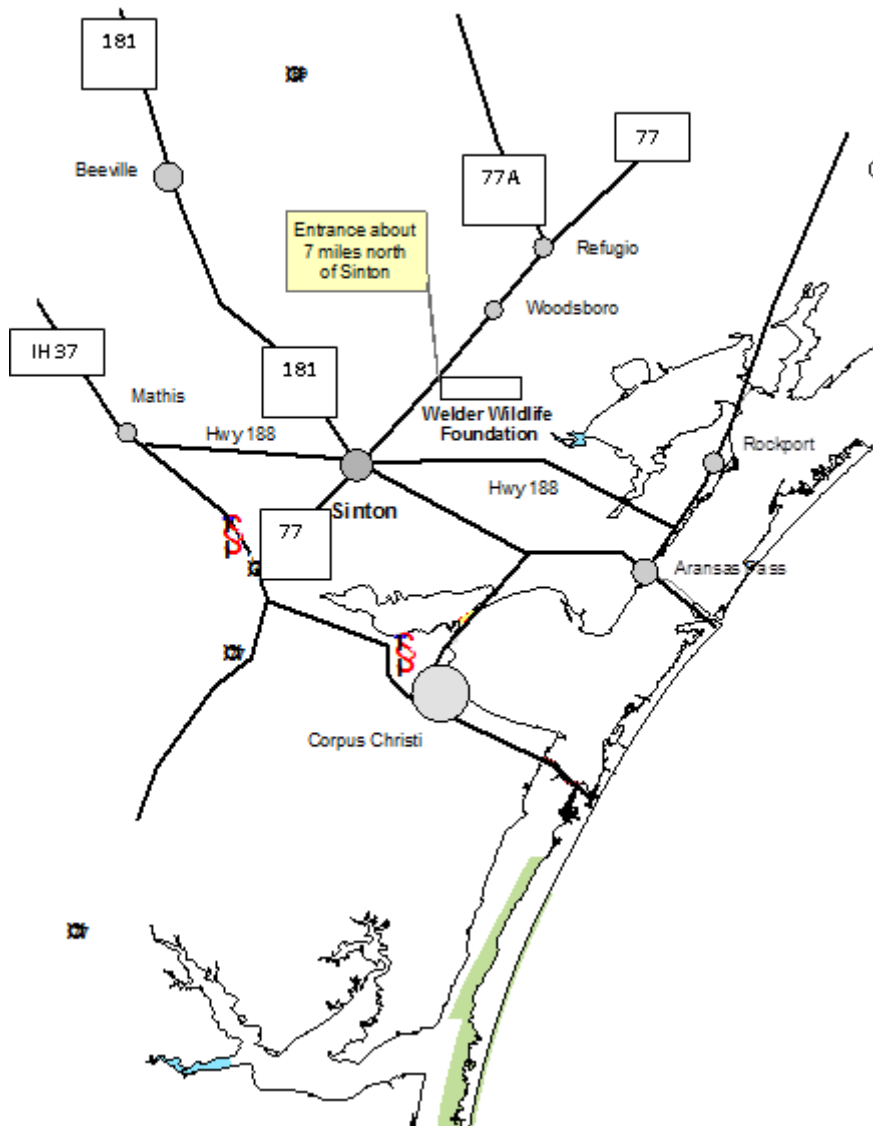
- In addition to classroom and field activities, we offer two educational hiking trails. You may request trail pamphlets in advance (please note this on confirmation form) and duplicate them for your students. Pamphlets include a map and guide to the flora and fauna of the trail. The Nature Trail behind the Bunkhouse takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The River Walk takes approximately 1½ - 2 hours to complete and the guide contains a key to woody plants on the trail. **Please DO NOT stray from the designated trails.** With the exception of the Nature Trail, a Welder staff member is required to be with groups at all times while they are out on the refuge.
- Sponsors should encourage their students to bring a small notebook to keep a journal of all plants and animals they see or hear, activities in which they participate, and things that occur while they are here. This reinforces their experiences at the Welder Wildlife Foundation.

PLEASE DO NOT ASK US TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS FOR YOUR GROUP!

DIRECTIONS TO THE WELDER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Take Hwy 77 N. from Sinton towards Woodsboro/Victoria. Approximately 8 miles north of Sinton there will be a brown highway sign announcing the Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation. Exit immediately following the sign and you will see the Foundation's gate house (white stucco with red tile roof) which is located on the east side of the highway. (If you cross the Aransas River Bridge you have traveled approximately 1.5 miles too far.) The headquarters is located 2 miles from the main gate at the highway. Do not exit off the main road. Phone number: 361-364-2643

Our physical address will take you to the main gate of the Refuge. After you reach the gate please follow the directions above. Physical address: 10429 Welder Wildlife, Sinton, TX 78387.



**WELDER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION NOTICE AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY
FOR ENTRY UPON PREMISES AND TRAVEL IN VEHICLES**

RECREATIONAL USE

(Place a check in the box if applies)

I hereby acknowledge that I am being granted permission, free of charge, to enter lands owned or leased (herein referred to as "premises") by the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation (herein called "The Foundation") for **PURPOSES OF RECREATION**. Recreation as used herein means activity as defined in Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code § 75.001 including but not limited to: hunting; fishing; swimming; boating; camping; picnicking; hiking; pleasure driving; nature study, including bird-watching; cave exploration; waterskiing or other water sports; or any other activity associated with enjoying nature or the outdoors.

NOTICE

I hereby acknowledge that **NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL DANGEROUS CONDITIONS EXIST** on the premises including the presence of harmful or poisonous snakes, insects, spiders, low hanging trees or branches, eroded conditions of the land, wild and domestic animals, deep water, mud, sand, sink holes, oil and natural gas wells, firearms, animal traps, vehicles, furniture including double-decked bunk beds, and slippery walking or driving surfaces. In addition, I hereby acknowledge that other naturally occurring dangerous conditions may exist on the premises as well as artificially occurring dangerous conditions germane to activities on the premises.

I also hereby acknowledge that my activities at The Foundation may include travel on or off the premises in vehicles owned and/or operated by The Foundation its trustees, representatives, employees, directors and agents, and that travel on and off roadways or senderos may be rough and dangerous.

RELEASE

In consideration of my entry on to the premises, I hereby **WAIVE, RELEASE AND DISCHARGE** any and all claims for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators I have or which may develop against the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and its trustees, representatives, employees, directors and agents, whether now known or not, for damages or other injury arising out of my entry on to the premises of The Foundation or travel in vehicles owned or operated by The Foundation. It is **MY INTENT TO WAIVE, RELEASE AND DISCHARGE** the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and their trustees, representatives, employees, directors and agents **FROM ANY DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE** of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and its trustees, representatives, employees, directors and agents. I hereby expressly assume all risk associated with my presence on the premises.

I hereby acknowledge that if any parts of this Notice and Release of Liability are determined to be unenforceable in law, that remaining parts of this Notice and Release of Liability shall remain in effect.

Date: _____

Signature

Printed Name

**IF PARTICIPANT IS A MINOR
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR
GUARDIAN IS REQUIRED:**

Name of Minor: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

**WELDER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
PHOTO RELEASE**

PHOTO RELEASE FOR MINORS

Student's name _____

I, _____, parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____ (student name),

do do not give (please check one) the Welder Wildlife Foundation and their legal representatives and assigns, the right and permission to publish, without charge, photographs taken during education programs or sponsored events by the Welder Wildlife Foundation.

These photographs may be used in publications, including electronic publications, or in audiovisual presentations, promotional literature, program advertising, or in other similar ways.

I/We hereby warrant that I/we are over eighteen (18) years of age and are competent to contract in our own names.

Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

PHOTO RELEASE FOR NON- MINORS

Individual's name _____

I, _____, hereby

do do not give (please check one) the Welder Wildlife Foundation and their legal representatives and assigns, the right and permission to publish, without charge, photographs taken during education programs or sponsored events by the Welder Wildlife Foundation.

These photographs may be used in publications, including electronic publications, or in audiovisual presentations, promotional literature, program advertising, or in other similar ways.

I hereby warrant that I am over eighteen (18) years of age and am competent to contract in my own name.

Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Day Group Packing List

NECESSITIES

- WATER BOTTLE!** – Every member of the group must carry a water bottle with them at all times!
- COMFORTABLE, CASUAL CLOTHING** – We may be walking through grass and brush, so thorns, mosquitoes, and chiggers will be in abundance! Shorts (of appropriate length) will be appropriate for some activities, but you may be in the field much of the time and you will need long pants for field activities.
- DURABLE, COMFORTABLE SHOES** (for wet and dry situations) – We will be doing LOTS of walking. Close-toed shoes (boots/old tennis shoes) are required for activities. If participating in aquatic activities you need an extra pair of closed-toed shoes (old tennis shoes/water shoes/keens)
- FIRST AID KIT**
- HAT/CAP, SUNGLASSES, AND SUNSCREEN**
- INSECT REPELLANT AND AFTER-BITE CREAM**
- DAYPACK OR BACKPACK** – For carrying water bottles, journals and other items you will use in the field.
- FOOD AND DRINKS** – Meals will not be prepared for the group. Groups must prepare their own meals. A kitchen is available for use. Vending machines are not available.
- KITCHEN PAPER GOODS** – Paper plates, cups, utensils, and paper towels will not be supplied for groups. Please bring these items if required by your group.
- RAIN GEAR**

OPTIONAL

- BINOCULARS**
- FIELD GUIDES OR TEXTS** – If you have any available, they will help in the field. If you do not have any, there will be some to share (examples: birds, mammals, plants, insects, etc.)
- OLD CLOTHING AND TOWEL FOR THE AQUATIC ACTIVITIES** – This is only if we have you scheduled for wetland/riparian activities
- CAMERA**
- BANDANA** – You may want to soak in water and wrap around the back of your neck to cool you off in the heat.

Overnight Group Packing List

NECESSITIES

- WATER BOTTLE!** – Every member of the group must carry a water bottle with them at all times!
- COMFORTABLE, CASUAL CLOTHING** – We may be walking through grass and brush, so thorns, mosquitoes, and chiggers will be in abundance! Shorts (of appropriate length) will be appropriate for some activities, but you may be in the field much of the time and you will need long pants for field activities.
- DURABLE, COMFORTABLE SHOES** (for wet and dry situations) – We will be doing LOTS of walking. Close-toed shoes (boots/old tennis shoes) are required for activities. If participating in aquatic activities you need an extra pair of closed-toed shoes (old tennis shoes/water shoes/keens)
- BEDDING** – You will need a pillow and sheet set (or sleeping bag). The bedrooms are air-conditioned and will get cool at night, so you might want to bring something warm in which to sleep.
- TOILETRIES** – You will need to bring your own towels, soap, shampoo, etc.
- FIRST AID KIT**
- HAT/CAP, SUNGLASSES, AND SUNSCREEN**
- INSECT REPELLANT AND AFTER-BITE CREAM**
- DAYPACK OR BACKPACK** – For carrying water bottles, journals and other items you will use in the field.
- FOOD AND DRINKS** – Meals will not be prepared for the group. Groups must prepare their own meals. A kitchen is available for use. Vending machines are not available.
- KITCHEN PAPER GOODS** – Paper plates, cups, utensils, and paper towels will not be supplied for groups. Please bring these items if required by your group.
- FLASHLIGHT** (with new/extra batteries)
- RAIN GEAR**

OPTIONAL

- BINOCULARS**
- FIELD GUIDES OR TEXTS** – If you have any available, they will help in the field. If you do not have any, there will be some to share (examples: birds, mammals, plants, insects, etc.)
- OLD CLOTHING AND TOWEL FOR THE AQUATIC ACTIVITIES** – This is only if we have you scheduled for wetland/riparian activities
- CAMERA**
- ALARM CLOCK**
- CAMPSTOOL OR CHAIR**
- BANDANA** – You may want to soak in water and wrap around the back of your neck to cool you off in the heat.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

E.M.S. AMBULANCE:



**Dial 911- Our 911 address is 10429 Welder Wildlife (Hwy 77 N)
Please note: This address takes you to the main gate of the Refuge**

REFUGE CONTACTS:

In case of emergency during working hours contact the main office at (361) 364-2643. After hours and weekends, contact one of the following at home:

Terry Blankenship	home: (361)-364-3623 cell: (361) 945-5284
Selma Glasscock	home: (361)-364-3166 cell: (361) 548-3198
Angie Arredondo	cell: (361) 455-3414
Angela Garcia	cell: (361) 542-0483
Nick Cano	cell: (361) 429-7784

*There are phones located in the classroom, and dorm.
Minor emergencies: There is a first-aid kit in the main office.

****AED Located in Laboratory in Main Headquarters Building**

NEAREST HOSPITALS:

For snakebites
or other traumas:



Christus Spohn Memorial Hospital, Trauma Center
2606 Hospital Blvd., Corpus Christi 361-902-4000
Approximately 35 minutes from Welder

1. Turn **left** onto **US-77 Bus**
2. Exit **right** Turn **left** onto **TX-89 (to US-181)**
3. Take ramp **right** for **US-181 South / SR-35 South**
4. Take ramp for **I-37 North** toward **Airport**
5. Take ramp **left** and follow signs for **SR-286 South / Crosstown Expy**
6. Take ramp **right** for **Morgan Ave / 19th St**
7. Turn **right** onto **Morgan Ave (go 1 block)**
8. Turn **right** onto **S 19th St (go 2 blocks)**
9. Turn **left** onto **Buford St (go almost 1 block)**
10. **Emergency** room entrance on **left**



HELICOPTER LANDING SITES ON WELDER WILDLIFE REFUGE

SITE 1: HEADQUARTERS LANDING SITE

<u>Latitude/Longitude</u>	<u>UTM</u>
Lat 28° 06.775	X 655,586
Long 97° 24.963	Y 3,110,723

SITE 2: LAKE CAMP LANDING SITE:

<u>Latitude/Longitude</u>	<u>UTM</u>
Lat 26° 06.885	X 659,751
Long 97° 22.420	Y 3,110,983