

JOIN US AT CAMP ARANZAZU!

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL GROUPS



Camp Aranzazu At a Glance

Our Name

“Aranzazu” is a Basque term that means “a spiritual place requiring a difficult path to reach.”

Mission

Camp Aranzazu (pronounced Ah ran’ zah zoo) is dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with chronic illnesses and special needs by providing unique camping, environmental education and retreat experiences.

History

Located on 104 acres near Rockport, Texas, Camp Aranzazu sits on property that was previously an Episcopal Church retreat. The land was later purchased by Tom and Holly Forney, who decided they wanted to do something to serve others while also protecting this historically and ecologically rich land in the Coastal Bend area.

They established Camp Aranzazu as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization in 2002. The first campers attended in June 2006. The camp was accredited by the American Camp Association in 2007. Since that time, more than 23,000 campers and their support staff have enjoyed time at Camp Aranzazu.



Quick Facts

- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Open year-round
- 9 full-time staff, 9 part-time, 18 seasonal
- One of only three camps in Texas and the only camp on the Texas coast that serves as a host facility for children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses
- 2019 budget is \$1,799,500.

Our Campers

- Each group of campers has a different challenge, such as epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, autism, cancer, spina bifida, asthma, cerebral palsy, juvenile diabetes, kidney disease, adolescent obesity, head and spinal cord injuries, neurological differences, and hearing and sight impairments, just to name a few.
- Campers come from 50 Texas counties.
- Approximately 52% come from the Coastal Bend area; 20% from Houston; and 28% from San Antonio.

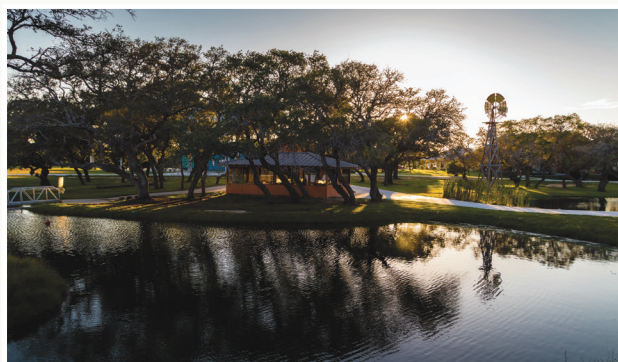
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Our Campers (continued)

- As a host facility, we provide meals and lodging. We customize each session to meet our partners' goals. Our highly trained programming staff facilitates all activities. Our partners bring campers, in-cabin counselors and medical staff.
- In general, campers pay one-third of the actual cost. Camp Aranzazu relies on support from the community to help underwrite the remainder, which will total over \$1.3 million in 2019.

Facilities

- The facility is completely barrier-free.
- We have 135 beds, plus approximately 20 additional beds for staff and counselors.
- The camp meets the stringent requirements of and is accredited by the American Camp Association and State of Texas for Youth Camps.
- A state-of-the-art health center allows campers to receive the care they need without leaving the premises.
- In 2016, we added a new dining hall, 52-bed cabin and a much larger pool. We then converted our former dining hall into a dedicated art center.
- The camp also has a second pool, a sanctuary, Ropes challenge course, archery range, kayaking and fishing ponds, an open air pavilion, a total of four sleeping cabins, a great lawn, paved walkways, and nature trails.
- We have 27 acres of waterfront and wetlands on Copano Bay that is accessible via a bridge from the main campus. This area includes a nature education pavilion, boardwalks, pier, breakwater, and bird blind.



Programs

- Each member of our program staff has a bachelor's degree and two of them are Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists.
- Because every group of campers has its own unique challenges, we tailor each camping experience to meet the needs and objectives of those specific campers.
- We offer kayaking/canoeing, paddle boarding, archery, swimming, fishing, arts and crafts, nature, music, drama and games. We also have a Ropes challenge course.
- Our art program includes painting, mosaics, leather crafts, digital photography, videography, ceramics, music and cooking.
- We are collaborating with The University of Texas Marine Science Institute, The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, the Texas State Aquarium, and the Coastal Conservation Association to create a program that will help campers develop knowledge of and an appreciation for the uniqueness of the Texas Gulf Coast.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION



PHOTO BY KIM HERZOG BONNER

With 104 acres, 135 beds, and dozens of activities, Camp Aranzazu is the ideal place to bring students for experiential learning and coursework application.

Located on Copano Bay, Camp Aranzazu's 104 acres include four different ecosystems. The area is rich with resources and history, both within our grounds and a short drive away. We also have plenty of meeting space and a staff that is experienced in leading group activities and teambuilding exercises. Our goal is that everyone who enters through our gates will leave with a greater appreciation and knowledge of the plants, animals, and other creatures that inhabit the Texas Gulf Coast.

Below are some of the many outdoor education activities available at Camp Aranzazu:

- Birdwatching and Identification
- Sensory Exploration of Nature
- Nature Hikes and Scavenger Hunts
- Seining
- Beachcombing with Coastal Bend expert and TAMUCC educator Jay Tarkington
- Saltwater and Freshwater Wetlands Exploration
- Educational sessions led by the Texas State Aquarium staff
- Dolphin and Whooping Crane Tours with Captain Tommy Moore

If you want to be even more adventurous, numerous exciting and unique opportunities are available in the surrounding area.

Please call before visiting, however, to confirm any details provided below.

ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1 Wildlife Circle, Austwell, Texas
(361) 286-3559
www.fws.gov/refuge/Aransas/

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is a 70,000 acre sanctuary best known for its prominent place in wildlife conservation. In 1941, when only 15 whooping cranes survived in the wild, the iconic bird became an emblem of alarm and concern for all endangered and threatened species. Aransas became a focal point of the national and worldwide effort to rescue the species from extinction.

MISSION-ARANSAS NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE - THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE

750 Channel View Dr.
Port Aransas, Texas
(361) 749-3045
<https://missionaransas.org/education/teachers>
<https://utmsi.utexas.edu/visit/field-trips>
The Mission-Aransas Reserve Education Program strives to enhance public understanding of the value and function of estuaries and to encourage protection of the coastal environment. The R/V Katy provides a unique platform for student groups to learn about estuaries and estuary-dependent organisms by bringing the students directly to the habitat they are studying.

TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM

2710 N. Shoreline Blvd | Corpus Christi, Texas | 1
(800) 477-GULF
<https://texasstateaquarium.org/>
<https://texasstateaquarium.org/programs-camps/teacher-resources/>

Discover the amazing underwater world of the Texas State Aquarium! Thousands of animals representing over 460 different species are ready to enchant, entertain, and inspire.

DOLPHIN WATCHING TOURS

Fulton Harbor in Fulton, Texas
(361) 727 0643
www.whoopingcranetour.com

Spend time with Captain Tommy Moore learning about the Atlantic Bottle-nosed Dolphin, as they feed behind the local shrimp fleet. Students also can learn about how local shrimp are caught, whooping cranes and other birds, the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, and the history of Aransas Bay.

JAY TARKINGTON'S WETLAND EXPLORER

Corpus Christi, Texas
(361) 443-6701
http://www.tamucc.edu/profiles/aug09/profile_tarkington.html

Jay Tarkington is the Aquatic Education Program Director for Texas A&M Corpus Christi's Center for Coastal Studies. He is dedicated to helping students connect with South Texas ecology and educates them on the Coastal Bend bays and estuaries through tours on the Wetland Explorer.

USS LEXINGTON

2914 N. Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, Texas
(800) LADY LEX or (361) 888-4873
www.usslexington.com

Tour the most highly decorated Essex Class aircraft carrier of World War II. The 16-story "Blue Ghost" displays military artifacts and more than a dozen aircraft. Commissioned in 1943, the ship was the oldest working carrier in the US Navy when decommissioned in 1991. Enjoy the 3D MEGA Theater, Ship's Store, Mess Deck, and Flight Simulator.

ROCKPORT – FULTON BIRDING

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/birding/birding_checklists/index.phtml
tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_p4000_0038.pdf

Rockport is known as a birder's haven and has more than 10 stops on the Great Texas Coastal Bend Birding Trail.



PHOTOS (EXCEPT CRANE) BY JULIE SOEFER



ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Camp Aranzazu developed a unique approach called “Intentional Camping,” which is the purposeful design of a camping experience to nurture the physical, social, emotional, and mental development of each camper. In short, every activity is designed with a specific goal in mind.

We seek to help our campers:

- 1 Challenge their beliefs about themselves and their capabilities;
- 2 Gain confidence, have fun, and try new activities; and
- 3 Develop a social support network and decrease any sense of isolation by spending time with others who face similar challenges.



Inland Adventures

- Archery
- Sports and Games
- Frisbee Golf
- Boating
 - Kayaking
 - Canoeing
 - Stand-Up Paddle Boarding
- Swimming
- Challenge Course
- High Elements
 - Raider Bridge
- Vertical play pen
 - Vertical Climbing Wall
 - Incline Climbing Wall
 - Multi Line
 - Incline Log
 - Zip Line
 - Zazu (Power) Pole
 - Screamer (giant swing)
- Low Elements & Team Building
 - TP Shuffle
 - Moby Deck
 - Nitro Crossing
 - Trust Fall Platform
 - Spider Web
 - Mowhawk Walk
 - Triangle Tension Traverse
 - Wild Woosey
- Inland Nature (with animals in the summer)
- Inland Nature
- Inland Pond Fishing (freshwater)



“Camp feels like home.”

– CAMPER FROM CAMP CC SOL

**“Camp has helped me
to step out of my comfort
zone and try new things.”**

- CAMPER FROM DRISCOLL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
CAMP ROCKN' (Reaching Out to Children with Kidney Needs)



Bayfront Experiences

- Bayfront Fishing (saltwater)
- Environmental Education on the Bay
- Birding
- Beachcombing
- Seining
- Sailing (Summer Only)
- Stargazing
- Dolphin Tour with Captain Tommy Moore*
- Seaside walks with Jay Tarkington
(Texas A & M Corpus Christi)*
- Texas State Aquarium
Guest Educator Sessions*



Creative Pursuits

- Arts and Crafts
- Tiles – A Camp Aranzazu Tradition!
- Tie-dye
- Fine Arts
- Music and Stories
- Drama
- Leather Crafting
- Mosaics
- Pottery
- Cooking/Baking
- Painting
- Photography
 - Photo Scavenger Hunt
 - Waterfront Nature Photography
- Yoga



Evening Activities

- Opening Campfire - songs, stories, & s'mores
- Marshmallow Paint Wars
- Night Swim
- Movies
- Talent show
- Capture the Flag
- Kickball
- Ice Cream Social
- Dance Party
- AranzaCLUE
- Camp Olympics
- Karaoke night
- Closing Campfire



EXTRAS:

HOST activities

(Hands On Skill Time, once a day for the week)



PROGRAM TEAM



AMELIA HASLAM, Camp Director
ahaslam@camparanzazu.org

Born and raised in Milledgeville, Georgia, Amelia joined Camp Aranzazu as an Activity Leader during the summer of 2013 and has served as Camp Director since August 2017. She graduated from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, with dual emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation and Natural and Cultural Resource Management. Amelia also is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Combining her love for special populations and passion for the environment, Ms. Haslam's favorite part about camp is bringing our campers face to face with the amazing ecosystems of the Coastal Bend and seeing their curiosity for the natural world grow!



AMANDA PRAET, Assistant Camp Director
apraet@camparanzazu.org

Amanda Praet was born and raised in Michigan, where she attended Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation in May 2014, served as an intern at Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Center in Colorado after graduation, and became a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist in January 2015. Amanda spent three summers at Camp Aranzazu working as an Activity Leader before joining the staff full-time in 2015 as a Program Manager. Amanda has a passion for working with special populations and was promoted to Assistant Camp Director in 2019. Some of her favorite activities at camp include our Ropes Challenge Course, nature education and pool sessions!



CARLEIGH MITCHELL, Program Manager
cmitchell@camparanzazu.org

Carleigh Mitchell was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas, and grew up both attending and volunteering at camps around the country. She discovered her passion for working with special populations while working at Camp Aranzazu as an Activity Leader during the summers of 2016 and 2017. After graduating from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi in August 2017 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Kinesiology, Carleigh coached multiple Special Olympics teams and worked for Corpus Christi Independent School District as an Adapted Physical Education Para Educator. Carleigh joined the Camp Aranzazu team full-time in April 2019 as a Program Manager.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How many cabins does Camp Aranzazu have and what is their layout?

- Camp Aranzazu has 135 beds available for our campers and partner staff.
- Each of our 10 large, air-conditioned, barrier-free cabin rooms has 13 beds. Each room has 10 bottom bunks and three top bunks and its own restroom with two toilets, two sinks, and two showers. The rooms share a screened-in porch with the adjacent cabin.
- In 2020, Camp Aranzazu also will have 10 small cabin rooms that are perfect for family camps and leadership retreats. Each room will have four beds, two top bunks and two bottom bunks in each. They also will have a private restroom with one toilet, one sink, and one shower.

2. How many campers has Camp Aranzazu served?

- Since opening its gates in 2006, Camp Aranzazu has served approximately 24,500 campers and their support staff!
- We anticipate serving 1,750 campers in 2019!

3. How does transportation work to and from Camp Aranzazu?

Camp Aranzazu does not transport campers or partner staff; therefore partners are required to provide transportation. Our experienced program team can provide advice and suggestions, however.

4. How large is the Camp Aranzazu staff?

Camp Aranzazu operates with a team of nine full-time staff members and approximately 30 part-time/seasonal staff members.

5. Are meals included in my price per person?

Yes! The fee includes room and board, as well as all activities. We provide three meals a day. The total number of meals varies depending on the length of the camp session.

6. Will camp be able to accommodate dietary restrictions and food allergies?

Yes! Camp Aranzazu Kitchen Staff is knowledgeable and flexible and willing to make reasonable accommodations for campers with dietary needs. Additional fees may apply.

7. Are lifeguards present at aquatic activities?

Yes! Camp Aranzazu has Red Cross Certified Lifeguards at all aquatic activities and adheres to the Red Cross standards, as well as the American Camp Association's accreditation standards.

8. Is Camp Aranzazu open year-round?

Yes! Camp Aranzazu operates year-round, providing amazing camping and retreat experiences even outside of the summer months.

9. Is Camp Aranzazu accredited by the ACA (American Camp Association)?

Yes! Camp Aranzazu has been accredited since opening its doors in 2006! We also are accredited by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

10. Is there air-conditioning at Camp Aranzazu?

Yes! All buildings are equipped with central heating and air-conditioning units.

11. Is a camp nurse on-site?

No, we do not have a nurse on-site. Camp Aranzazu works on a partner model, which means that our camping partners bring the campers, support staff/volunteers, and any necessary medical personnel.

"I believe in myself."

- CAMPER FROM DRISCOLL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL EASY BREATHERS, A SUMMER CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

12. Is there a secure location for medications to be kept and distributed?

Yes! Camp Aranzazu's Health Center has a locked med room, nurses' station, and treatment room for partners' use. The treatment room has three hospital beds. The Center also has two bedrooms (and a total of five beds) that are available for use by our partner's medical staff.

13. Is there a beach?

Kind of! We have 27 acres on Copano Bay that include two small oyster shell beaches, boardwalks, a fishing pier, a nature center and more. Bayfront activities include fishing, sailing, birding, campfire, and outdoor education; however we do not swim in the bay. (Too many oyster shells!)

14. How close is camp to the nearest grocery store or Walmart?

Although Camp Aranzazu feels remote, we are a mere 5.8 miles from Walmart and 6.4 miles from HEB.

15. Does Camp Aranzazu provide linens?

No, Camp Aranzazu does not provide linens for campers and guests; however, if a camper forgets a set of bedsheets or a towel, we always have a few for backup.

16. Do we have access to a washing machine and dryer?

Yes! The Health Center contains a residential-size washer/dryer for partner use.

17. Can I cook my own food at camp?

Groups are not permitted to use Camp Aranzazu's kitchen. The cost of all meals is included in the fee.

18. Is there Wi-Fi at camp?

- a. Yes, Camp Aranzazu offers Wi-Fi in specific buildings for partner use.
- b. The Dining Hall, Health Center, and Art Center are all equipped with Wi-Fi.

19. Why would I choose Camp Aranzazu over other camping facilities?

- a. While all camping facilities have great things to offer, Camp Aranzazu specializes in intentionality, intimacy, and growth for your camping program. Our smaller size means that we can tailor your experiences to meet your campers' specific needs, and everyone quickly feels like family!
- b. Camp Aranzazu is the only ACA-accredited camp on the Gulf Coast that serves children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses. You and your campers can enjoy sailing, fishing, and learning about the area's unique fish, birds, and other animals.
- c. Camp Aranzazu has two Certified Therapeutic Recreational Therapists on staff to ensure that your camp programs are focused on your campers' goals and on creating measurable outcomes for their time at camp.
- d. Our facilities are not only functional, but beautiful, well-maintained, and constantly updated to best fit the needs of our growing camper populations.
- e. Camp Aranzazu's summer staff receive three weeks of intense training prior to the start of camp, so they are not only well versed in all activities and facilitation, but also educated about each camp's unique challenges and how to best serve all of our campers.
- f. The food is GREAT.

20. I want to bring a group of campers to Camp Aranzazu. What do I do next?

Fill out the enclosed commitment form and return it to Camp Director, Amelia Haslam, at ahaslam@camparanzazu.org. She will walk you through the next steps!

21. I have a few more questions. Who should I contact?

We are eager to hear from you! Please contact Michelle Frerich, recruitment coordinator, at michelle@camparanzazu.org, or Amelia Haslam, camp director, at ahaslam@camparanzazu.org.





2019 FEE SCHEDULE

The following rates apply to non-profit organizations that cater to children and adults with special needs and chronic illnesses. 2019 fees*

Partial Day Camp	\$ 27
Full Day Camp	\$ 65
1 night / 2 days	\$128
2 nights / 3 days	\$226
3 nights / 4 days	\$321
4 nights / 5 days	\$387
5 nights / 6 days	\$449
6 nights/7 days	\$515

The following rates apply to other non-profit organizations. 2019 fees*

Partial Day Camp	\$ 55
Full Day Camp	\$128
1 night / 2 days	\$192
2 nights / 3 days	\$232
3 nights / 4 days	\$335
4 nights / 5 days	\$405
5 nights / 6 days	\$470

The following rates apply to organizations that are not designated as a 501c3 by the IRS. 2019 fees*

Partial Day Camp	\$69
Full Day Camp	\$167
1 night / 2 days	\$227
2 nights / 3 days	\$271
3 nights / 4 days	\$373
4 nights / 5 days	\$443
5 nights / 6 days	\$508



A la Carte Services
(for non-summer months) 2019 fees**

Teambuilding/Low Ropes (LR)	\$ 43
High Ropes (HR)	\$103
Teambuilding/LR/HR	\$103
Meals	\$ 11

*All fees are per person and include three meals per day. 2020 fees will be published in June 2019.

**Fees are per person and include one meal. 2020 fees will be published in June 2019.



CAMP COMMITMENT FORM

Please complete and email this form to Amelia Haslam (ahaslam@camparanzazu.org)
We will temporarily hold your preferred dates and send you a contract. Dates are guaranteed only once you have signed and returned the contract and paid your deposit.

Today's Date:	
Camp Name:	
Sponsoring Organization:	
Address:	
Primary Contact Name:	Phone:
Fax:	Email:
2nd Contact Name:	Phone:
Fax:	E-mail:

Est. Number of Participants:		Age Range:					
Est. Number of Staff:							
Total Number*:							
Cost Per Person:				MEALS NEEDED			
				Meals - Day 1	B	L	D
				Meals - Day 2	B	L	D
Arrival Date:		Arrival Time:		Meals - Day 3	B	L	D
Departure Date:		Departure Time:		Meals - Day 4	B	L	D
				Meals - Day 5	B	L	D
				Meals - Day 6	B	L	D

For Office Use Only:	Program Manager:
	Guaranteed Number*:
	Additional Meals:
	Other Additional Charges:

*No later than thirty days prior to the first day of the Camp Stay, Camping Partner will provide Owner with the final headcount of all Campers and Partner Staff (the "Guaranteed Number") and a list of all Campers (the "Final List") who will be attending Camp.