

SKY RANCH

FATHER SON WEEKEND

EST. 1955 | TEXAS

PACKING LIST

- Bible/pen
- Bedding - standard twin size sheets or sleeping bag, and a pillow (not needed if you have reserved private accommodations)
- Towels & washcloths (not needed if you have reserved private accommodations)
- Comfortable clothing for all activities on Saturday (you will be walking around camp, going down the ziplines, etc.)
- Attire for Saturday Night Event (see below)
- Close-toed shoes for activities
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight
- Warm clothing in case the weather gets chilly
- Light jacket (optional)
- Rain jacket/poncho (optional)
- Camera (optional)
- Fishing gear (optional free time activity - catch and release fishing)

For the safety and comfort of all of our guests, tobacco alcohol, fireworks, and firearms are strictly prohibited. Failure to comply with these policies may result in fines or dismissal from Sky Ranch property.

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

Schedule with actual times given upon arrival.

FRIDAY

Check-in and Activity Sign-up*
Dinner
Welcome & Session 1
Night Activity
Back to Cabins

SATURDAY

Coffee Available
Breakfast
Session 2 & Photos
Recreation Time
Lunch
Recreation Time
Dinner
Word of the Father
Night Event
Back to Cabins

SUNDAY

Coffee Available
Bags Packed and Loaded
Breakfast
Session 3
Departure

* Sign up for Trail Rides at an additional cost of \$30 per person.

IMPORTANT TIMES

- 5:30pm Arrival on Friday
- 10:00am Departure on Sunday

SATURDAY NIGHT EVENT

Join us for a high energy night filled with laughter, teamwork, and a little friendly competition! This year's challenge features a series of fast paced mini games that bring together dads and sons to race, build, sort, and strategize their way through creative challenges designed to strengthen bonds, spark memories, and celebrate the joy of doing life side by side.

FOR DAD'S EYES ONLY

WORD OF THE FATHER

Saturday Night After Dinner

"My father didn't tell me how to live. He lived and let me watch him do it." – Clarence Budington Kelland

One of this weekend's highlights will occur on Saturday night. After dinner, you will have the opportunity to bless your young man in a special rite of passage called "Word of the Father." The purpose of this time will be to encourage him by presenting him with a meaningful gift or token to remember the moment by and communicate these three things:

I love you because...

I am proud of you because...

I am here for you and want to offer you my blessing for your journey.

Regarding the special gift - you know your son best, and we recommend commemorating this moment with something that is meaningful to the two of you. Keep it simple and relevant to your son. A coin, stuffed animal, a tool or pocketknife - whatever feels best for you.

IT'S A BIG JOB

You were hand selected by God to instill in your young man a sense of security, hope, and confidence that comes from experiencing the love of his heavenly Father through you. Don't worry, you don't need to be perfect, but you do need to be present and purposeful. This weekend you will have the opportunity for both.

This guide is meant to help you take some time to think through the blessing. In fact, we would encourage you to write your thoughts down in a letter and present them to him with the gift. You will find a blank page enclosed - please feel free to use this for your letter, he will cherish it for sure. Don't use the letter as a substitution for talking to him. Remember that your words don't matter as much as your sincere attempt to say them. God won't let you fail in this. So, enjoy it. Your son needs to hear from the man he wants to be.

PREPARATION FOR THE BLESSING

You and your son will have the opportunity to take part in the activities planned for camp all day Saturday. At the end of the day, we will gather together in something we call "Circle of Men." We will explain to the boys that they are about to face the "Word of the Father" challenge. We will tell them it has been going on their entire life. You, as their father and guide to becoming a man, have been watching their progress. On this night, you will let them know if they have what it takes to go to the next level. They will be "weighed and measured," so to speak, by you - their father.

Later, we will break into smaller groups, and your son will stand before you. At this point you will speak your blessing to him, offering him his warrior gift symbolizing his success. Focus your thoughts on the past year. Make sure to use different examples from this year and show him that you have been paying attention to his life. He can't hear this stuff enough from you.

(Don't sweat this. You don't have to be great with words. This will mean the WORLD to him.)

WHAT TO SAY

I love you because... (you fill in the blanks here)

Sometimes dads and sons love all the same things. Sometimes they don't relate to each other because of different interests, abilities, etc. However, the fact that God chose to put you two together as a father/son team is something he might need to hear. You might say something along the lines of: "Son, I love you because you are a gift. I am so proud that God chose ME to be your dad! He must think we make a good team, and I wouldn't trade you for any other guy in the world. I love you just as you are and nothing you will ever do can change that."

You could tell him how hard it is to be a good father but that you really are trying to do your best. Let him know that you want to be a part of his life. Share with him why you love spending time with him.

I am proud of you because... (focus on character quality, not achievements)

He needs to hear that you believe in him and the man he is becoming. You see good in him as he is. Not only that you see potential but that you see positive qualities in him right now. Focus on his character. The world tells him one thing, but you should tell him about what you see on the inside.

I see that you are becoming a man...

Finally, it is time to give him your blessing. This is where you tell him that you see he is becoming a man and present to him part of his "armor." You might say something like: "We will go through some hard times together. You may not always like me or the decisions I make, but know that everything I do, I do because I love you. On the other side of trouble, I will always be there for you. God is making you into a great man, and I see that clearly every day. You have earned the right to be called a warrior."

After these words, you will give him the gift you have chosen for him. After the ceremony, you will pray for him. Don't sweat this. It is a BIG deal for a boy to have his father pray over him. Just say a simple prayer asking God to help him become a good man and bring you two closer together. Just speak from the heart. Then you will close your prayer with a blessing from scripture. Here are some good passages we recommend.

Numbers 6:24-26

1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24

Ephesians 3:17-19

Philippians 1:9-11

BLESSING EXAMPLE

Son, first I want you to know tonight that I love you. I love you more than you can ever imagine. The day I first heard your heartbeat I knew that I would die for you. I have always loved you, and nothing you can do could ever change that. I love you because you are a gift from God, and I can't believe he has blessed me so much with such an incredible son. Sometimes I don't know how to say what I feel inside, but just know that I love you because you are you. You don't have to change to earn that. We are a team no matter what.

I also want you to know that I am so proud of you. I see in you so many good qualities. Maybe you don't even realize they are there, but I see them every day! The way you study your video game, books, and know every last detail of every Pokémon ever created shows me that you are a thinker. You are diligent and that kind of work ethic will pay off for you big time in your life. I admire that

in you. I also love how you are careful with your heart and mind. You show great integrity, which means you try to do the right thing even when no one is looking. I respect you for that. You also show the true marks of a man in the courage you display. I hear you when you tell me that you are nervous about things, but you never let fear control you. It is okay to be afraid, but a warrior faces his fears, and I have seen you do that. I love that about you. You make me a very proud father.

It is my honor to stand here with you as your dad. You are becoming a fine young man. I see the progress you have made - I see the warrior in you. I believe in you and the man you are becoming. Sometimes, it may seem like I am too busy or interested in other things, but you need to know that to me, you are always a priority. When things aren't going well for you, I will always be there for you. I am committed to being the best father I can possibly be and to helping you become the warrior you were born to be. I love you son. Here is your shield.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for my son. Thank you for putting him in my life. Thank you for working in his life and watching over him. I pray that you bring us closer together, bond us as a team, and help us to overcome the tough things that life will throw at us. Father, give this boy wisdom and strength for his journey to becoming a man. I offer him my blessing tonight, through your word in the book of Numbers:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look down upon you with favor and give you peace." Amen.

CHARACTER QUALITIES

Adaptable	Able to adjust without difficulty to new, unfamiliar, and unexpected conditions. Phil. 4:6
Agreeable	Willing or ready to agree or consent.
Alertness	Ability to know and do the right thing based on what is taking place around me. Mark 14:38
Amiability	Having a kindly or attractive disposition; friendly; pleasing. Micah 6:8
Aspiration	Ardent desire after what is great and good. Phil. 4:8
Assured	Certain; convinced; not doubting or doubtful. Matt. 7:24; Phil. 4:13
Attentiveness	Paying or giving attention; intent; observant. Prov. 22:17-19; Phil. 2:3-4; Heb. 2:1
Availability	Capable of being used - "always there when you need 'em". Acts 20:35; Phil. 2:20-21
Boldness	Daring; courageous; brave; confident; speaks out. Ps. 138:3; Acts 4:29; Eph. 3:11-12; Phil. 1:20
Bravery	To encounter with courage and fortitude. Ps. 31:3; Ps. 31:24
Cautiousness	Knowing when to do the right thing at the right time. Prov. 19:2
Compassion	Sympathetic emotion created by misfortunes of another, accompanied by a desire to help. Ps. 103:13; Col. 3:12; 1 John 3:17
Confidence	Certain; self-reliant; has assurance. Ps. 71:5; Prov. 14:26; 2 Cor. 3:4-5; Heb. 4:16; Heb. 10:35-36
Considerate	Regard for others' circumstances or feelings. Eph. 4:32; Phil. 2:4; Heb. 10:24-25
Contentment	Satisfaction with what one has and circumstances or feelings. Phil. 4:7, 11; 1 Tim. 6:8
Cooperative	To work together as a group for a common goal. Rom. 12:3-5
Courage	Ability to encounter danger or difficulties with firmness and without fear. Deut. 31:6; 2 Chron. 15:7; Ps. 27:14; Ps. 31:24
Creativity	Imaginative; gives rise to new things and ideas. Rom. 12:2
Decisiveness	Able to make a prompt decision when faced with time limits. James 1:5

Dedicated	Given wholly to a purpose, goal, or thing; devoted. Phil. 3:14; Col. 3:23-24
Deference	Behaving toward others in a way that is respectful; treating them as persons of great worth. Rom. 14:21
Dependability	Reliability; trustworthy; rest with confidence in. Ps. 15:4; Ps. 62:6,7; Luke 16:10
Desire	To wish or long for a person, thing, or goal.
Determination	Act of deciding; firm resolution; settled purpose; mental act of settling upon some course of action with fixed purpose to adhere to it. Luke 22:42; 1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 12:1-3
Diligence	Steady application; constant effort; to accomplish what is undertaken. Jer. 29:13; Col. 3:23; Heb. 6:11-12
Discernment	Power to perceive differences between things, ideas, and their relationships; discriminate between good and evil. 1 Sam. 16:7; Ps. 119:65-66; Prov. 17:27
Discipline	State of order maintained by training and strict self-control. Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Tim. 4:7; 2 Tim. 1:7
Discretion	The ability to make sound, tactful judgments. Prov. 22:3
Earnestness	Serious in intention, purpose, or effort, characterized by depth. Prov. 23:23
Endurance	A continuing or bearing-up under pain or distress without yielding. Gal. 6:9; Heb. 12:1
Enthusiasm	A keen and active interest; ardent zeal in pursuit of something. Prov. 15:13; Romans 12:11; 1 Pet. 3:13
Expressiveness	Full of expression, vividly representing the meaning or feeling to be conveyed.
Fair-Mindedness	Reasonable and unbiased; free from prejudice.
Fairness	Honest; open; frank; impartial or unbiased. Luke 6:31
Faith	Confidence or trust in a person or thing; loyalty to a person, promise, or commitment. 1 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 11:1
Firm	Steadfast and unwavering; showing determination. Eph. 6:14
Flexibility	Capable of adapting or modifying. Col. 3:2
Forgiveness	Inclined to overlook offenses; to cease to feel resentment against. Eph. 4:32
Fortitude	Strength of mind which enables one to encounter danger or bear pain with coolness and courage. 1 Chron. 29:20
Friendly	Inclined to approve, help, or support. Ps. 41:1-2; Prov. 17:17; John 15:13
Generosity	Free and unselfish in giving. Prov. 22:9; 2 Cor. 9:6
Gentleness	Kindly; mild, not severe. Matt. 5:5; Gal. 5:22-23; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 2:7; 1 Pet. 3:4
Giving	To commit or offer oneself to be used or helpful. Matt. 22:37-39; 2 Cor. 9:7
Good-natured	Natural mildness and kindness of disposition. Col. 4:6
Goodness	Virtue or integrity; kindness. Gal. 5:22
Gratefulness	Thankfulness of kindness shown or benefits received. 1 Cor. 4:7; Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18
Honesty	Freedom from deceit or fraud; upright; integrity; honorable intentions, principles and actions. Matt. 5:18
Honorable	Worthy of being honored; motivated by principles of honor; consistent. Matt. 5:6
Hospitality	Cheerfully sharing everything with others each day; food, shelter; smiles, encouragement, etc. Heb. 13:2
Humility	Not proud or arrogant; modest and submissive to authority. Ps. 10:17; Prov. 22:4; James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:6
Imaginative	Being able to create new things or ideas consistent with reality.
Initiative	Power or ability to take the lead or originate action. 1 Chron. 29:20; Rom. 12:21
Integrity	Unimpaired moral principles; honest; soundness; whole and undivided. Prov. 10:9; Prov. 20:7
Intent	Fixed with earnest attention on some purpose or thought.
Joyfulness	Gladness or delight; causing satisfaction and happiness. Prov. 15:13; Prov. 17:22a; John 15:11; James 1:2-3
Kindness	Good; helpful; friendly. Micah 6:8; Eph. 4:32
Leadership	Ability to lead or guide. Ex. 18:21; Matt. 20:26; Rom. 12:1-2
Listener	To give close attention in order to hear; to pay attention to. Prov. 4:1; Mark 4:24; James 1:19
Love	Giving to others' needs without seeking something in return. 1 Cor. 13:3
Loyalty	Faithful to one's obligations, commitments, and leaders. Matt. 25:21; John 15:13; Rom. 12:9-10

Meekness	Mild of temper; gentle; not easily provoked or irritated. Ps. 62:5; Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 13:4-5
Obedience	Act of complying with rules and standards imposed by one in authority; submission. 1 Kings 8:61; 2 Cor. 10:5
Open-minded	Having a mind open to new arguments or ideas; unprejudiced. Prov. 22:17
Orderliness	Preparing yourself and your surroundings so that the most good can be done with little confusion, in the amount of time given. 1 Cor. 14:40
Patience	Bearing pain or trial without complaining; waiting with calmness; not hasty; calmly diligent. Prov. 14:29; Prov. 17:27, Rom. 5:3-4; 2 Tim. 4:2
Perseverance	The act or habit of persistence in anything undertaken. Rom. 5:3-4
Persistence	Steady continuance of a course; tenacious or purpose. Hosea 6:3; Eph. 6:14
Persuasiveness	Having the power to influence, move, or prevail; to convince toward a certain course of action. 1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:24
Pleasing	Giving pleasure or satisfaction; agreeable; gratifying. Ps. 104:34; 2 Cor. 5:9
Practical	Mindful of results, usefulness, advantages/disadvantages, action or procedure; matter-of-fact.
Punctuality	Showing that I value other people and their time. Eccl. 3:1
Purposefulness	Having an objective to be reached or accomplished.
Reasonable	Having or exercising sound judgment.
Respectfulness	Regard; high consideration and courtesy. 1 Pet. 2:13; 1 Pet. 2:17
Resoluteness	Having a fixed purpose; determined; steadfast; firm. Prov. 4:25-27; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9-10
Resourcefulness	Wise use of that which others might overlook or discard. Luke 16:10
Responsibility	Accountable for performance or discharge of duty. Rom. 14:19; Phil. 4:13; 1 Pet. 4:10
Reverence	An attitude of deep respect and esteem mingled with affection. Prov. 1:7; Prov. 23:17; 1 Pet. 5:5
Security	Freedom from apprehension; confidence of safety; freedom from danger or risk. Ps. 16:8-9; Prov. 10:9; John 6:27
Self-control	Control of one's actions or feelings. Gal. 5:22-25
Self-starter	One who applies his/her efforts without instruction, urging, or directions from others.
Sensitivity	Having feelings easily excited; readily and acutely affected. Rom. 12:15; Col. 3:12
Sincerity	Freedom from hypocrisy; truthfulness; genuineness. Prov. 3:3; James 3:17; Heb. 10:22; 1 Pet. 1:22
Steadfast	Fixed, firm, or constant in resolution; not fickle or wavering. Prov. 4:25; Prov. 12:27b; Prov. 21:5; 1 Cor. 15:58
Tactful	Skill in doing or saying exactly what is required. Prov. 25:11, Eph 4:15
Tenacious	Holding fast or characterized by keeping a firm hold; "stick-to-it-tiveness"; tough. Prov. 4:25, 26-27; Prov. 12:27b; Gal. 6:9
Thankful	Expressive of gratitude; grateful; appreciative. Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18
Thoroughness	Finishing a task that has been started down to the last detail. Prov. 18:5
Thriftiness	Controlling my desire to spend more on myself than I should, so that I might have more to help others with. Luke 16:11
Tolerance	Acceptance of others just as they are; realizing that we are all different, and hopefully growing and maturing. Phil. 2:2
Trustworthy	Worthy of trust or confidence; reliable. Isaiah 6:4; Matt. 25:21; Heb. 2:13
Truthfulness	Conformity to fact or reality; honesty by nature. Prov. 10:9; Eph. 4:25
Unselfish	Not unduly attached to one's own interests or welfare; generous. Matt. 20:26-28; Phil. 2:3-5
Virtue	Moral excellence or goodness; praise-worthy. Prov. 19:20; Phil. 4:8; 1 Pet. 1:5
Wisdom	Having sound judgment; common sense; extensive knowledge; discerning. Prov. 1:7; Prov. 9:10; Prov. 15:20a; Eph. 5:15-17; James 3:17

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