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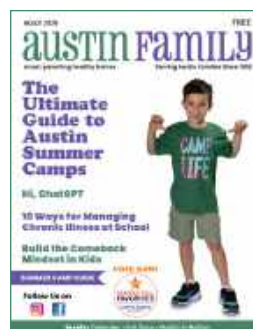
Catch *Austin Family* magazine live on "Good Day Austin" every Thursday morning.

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## The Ultimate Guide to Austin Summer Camps



Ori, a 7-year-old boy, loves training like a ninja warrior and amazing audiences as a magician.

Photo by Jenny Rhea Photography.



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## Editor's Note



CELESTE DIANNE WADE

*Wade is a writer, a public speaker, and a popular health coach in Austin. The eldest of seven children, she loves travel adventures with family.*

March in Austin feels like the moment our city steps fully into the sunshine. The light lingers longer, the air turns soft and warm, and everything seems to hum with possibility.

Wildflowers begin to brighten the highways, and afternoons invite us outdoors. Patios fill with conversation, food trucks buzz with families sharing picnic tables, and kayaks glide across Lady Bird Lake. At dusk, neighbors and visitors gather along Congress Avenue Bridge to watch the bats rise into the evening sky, a ritual that still inspires wonder.

We also pause to celebrate Texas Independence Day, reflecting on the independent spirit that continues to shape our community. March is when travelers arrive for one of Austin's

many beloved events and discover something more lasting. Year after year, some come for a long weekend and leave making plans to move, drawn by the creative energy, the welcoming neighborhoods, and the promise of sunshine nearly year round.

Spring break energy mingles with neighborhood traditions, creating a lively, sometimes crowded, but unmistakably joyful atmosphere. For families, this is the season of first bike rides without jackets, impromptu park days, and weekends that stretch comfortably from morning to sunset. In these simple moments, March becomes more than a month. It becomes a memory in the making.

*Celeste*

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## Did You Know?

**March 8th**

Daylight Savings Time  
Source: [www.nist.gov](http://www.nist.gov)

**March 13th–28th**

Rodeo Austin  
Source: [www.rodeoaustin.com](http://www.rodeoaustin.com)

**March 17th**

St. Patrick's Day  
Wear Green  
Source: [www.history.com](http://www.history.com)



### Free 10K Training for Austin Youth

This spring, Austin Youth Fitness invites third through eighth graders to lace up for the Govalle 10K Training Club, a free program designed to prepare young runners for the Capitol 10K. Held Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m., now through April 4, excluding March 21, the club meets at Govalle Neighborhood Park, 5200 Bolm Road.

Sponsored by the David Phillips Foundation, the program builds endurance gradually, increasing mileage each week until participants reach the full 10K distance. Coaches emphasize proper running form, pacing, endurance, running drills, and functional fitness, while keeping sessions engaging and age-appropriate. Each practice concludes with a fun, high-energy game.

The club is ideal for cross-country athletes and newcomers alike. Since 2009, Austin Youth Fitness has focused on making fitness fun while teaching safe technique in running and biking, helping kids grow into confident, lifelong athletes.

### It's My Park Day Supports 170 Austin Parks and Counting

Austin families can roll up their sleeves for the spring edition of It's My Park Day on Saturday, March 7. Hosted by the Austin Parks Foundation, the biannual event has united neighbors for more than two decades to care for trails, greenbelts, and neighborhood parks across the city.

Volunteers can sign up for projects ranging from tree mulching and planting to invasive species removal and litter cleanup. This season's efforts include working with park rangers at Brownie Neighborhood Park, restoring habitat at Red Bluff Nature Preserve, improving Shinoak Valley Greenbelt, and rebuilding garden beds at Pillow Park. The foundation's Park Picker tool also helps direct volunteers where support is needed most.



Last fall, volunteers completed 177 projects across 170 parks, collecting more than 25,000 pounds of trash and spreading 1,500 cubic yards of mulch. Since launching in 2003, the event has generated an average of \$650,000 in volunteer labor annually, strengthening Austin's green spaces through community care and commitment.

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### Historic Response Marks Start of Texas School Choice Initiative

More than 100,000 students have applied in the first 2 weeks for Texas Education Freedom Accounts, or TEFA, on the program's first day, setting a national record for day-one enrollment in a new school choice initiative. The total surpasses the 33,000 applications submitted during Tennessee's 2025 launch.

"Texas families made history," Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock said. "This record-breaking response shows a powerful groundswell of parents excited about the freedom to choose the best possible education for their child."

Of first-day applicants, 80.3% indicated plans to attend a participating private school next year, while 19.7% selected alternatives, including homeschooling.

Among students with verified information, 34% come from households earning below 200% of the federal poverty level, or \$66,000 for a family of four. Another 38% fall between 200% and 500%, or up to \$165,000 for a family of four. Nearly three in four applicants qualify for one of three priority tiers established under Senate Bill 2, including 10% in the top tier for students with disabilities.

The application window remains open through March 17 at 11:59 p.m. CT and is not first-come, first-served. Details are available at [www.educationfreedom.texas.gov](http://www.educationfreedom.texas.gov).



### Austin Students Represented Texas at Inaugural Governor's Cup Robotics Showcase

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott invited St. Michael's Prep FIRST Tech Challenge Team 12928, the Lightsaders, to represent Texas at the inaugural United States Governor's Cup FIRST Tech Challenge Showcase in Washington, D.C., held in February. In a formal letter to robotics coach and innovation instructor Mike Scallon, Abbott praised the team's sustained excellence, innovation, and impact on STEM education across Texas.

The Lightsaders earned four consecutive Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state championships from 2021 to 2024, advanced multiple times to the FIRST World Championship, and received top innovation, design, and inspire awards. In 2024, they reached their division finals at the world championship, a distinction reserved for the highest-performing teams globally.

"Representing Texas at the first-ever Governor's Cup was an incredible honor," said team member William R.

Through long hours of design, coding, testing, and refinement, students mirrored collegiate engineering environments while building leadership and resilience. In Washington, the Lightsaders served as ambassadors for Texas pride and the future of STEM innovation.



### Texas High School Films Debut at SXSW EDU

Texas high school filmmakers are taking center stage at SXSW EDU 2026. For the first time, the festival will showcase student-created comedy, drama, animation, and documentary films in the Texas High School Student Shorts Program. Selected from more than 80 submissions, 13 short films will screen on Crossover Day, Thursday, March 12. The new program spotlights emerging talent and gives young storytellers a major platform to share their voices.



## The Learning Curve

ALISON BOGLE

Bogle is a writer living in Austin with her husband and three children. A former fourth grade teacher, she now enjoys writing about children and education. You can also catch her talking about articles from Austin Family magazine each Thursday morning on FOX 7 Austin.



# Hi, ChatGPT

*Hi, ChatGPT. I'm writing a piece on kids and the appropriate use of AI in schoolwork – both defining what that is and how to teach kids that balance. I figured you and I could have a little chat back and forth about this. Please keep each of your answers to under 100 words. Are you game?*

Oh I love this topic – and yes, I'm in. This is exactly the kind of messy, real-world question schools are trying to figure out right now.

AI isn't going away, so "ban vs. allow" is the wrong frame – it's more like teaching kids how to use a calculator without forgetting how to do math.

Ready when you are. What angle do you want to start with: defining appropriate use, risks, age differences, or classroom strategies?

*Let's start with defining appropriate use. This can be tricky because each school – and often each teacher – has their own set of expectations. Not to mention, parents are likely trying to figure out what an appropriate use of AI might look like for their kids. What do you have to say about this?*

You're right – the confusion comes from adults not agreeing yet. So the definition has to be principle-based, not rule-based.

**Kid-friendly version:** AI is a **helper, not a substitute**.

Appropriate use = AI helps you **understand, plan, or improve** your work, but the **thinking, decisions, and final learning** still belong to the student.

A simple test kids get:

- Did I learn this?
- Could I explain it without the AI?
- Is this mostly my words and ideas?

If AI replaces struggle, thinking, or skill practice → it's misuse.

*I like that. It's simple, which makes it more likely to be remembered and implemented. Going back to my writing roots, a big part of planning, and often "struggle," for an essay is the brainstorming piece. Yet, that could also be considered part of the planning phase. What are considerations for kids using AI to help them brainstorm for their writing?*

Yes – brainstorming is the gray zone. AI is **helpful** after a student has put something down first. Blank page → AI can replace thinking. Rough ideas → AI can expand thinking.

Good guardrails for kids: Start with your own 3 ideas before asking AI:

- Use AI for **questions, angles, or structure**, not full arguments
- Treat suggestions like a menu, not answers
- Combine ideas and make them yours

If AI gives the idea and the wording, the learning didn't happen.

*Let's move on to risks. It's no secret that you and I have had some verbal tussles when you've returned information to me that you've manufactured, even after I specifically asked you not to fill in any informational gaps with your own created content. What are all of the risks kids might run into when using AI in a schoolwork capacity?*

Totally fair – overconfidence in AI is a real issue. Biggest risks for students:

- **Incorrect info** presented confidently
- **Shallow learning** (outsourcing thinking)
- **Skill atrophy** in writing, math, problem-solving
- **Voice loss** – work stops sounding like them
- **Academic integrity issues** (crossing into cheating)
- **Privacy risks** if they share personal data

- **Bias in outputs** shaping perspective
- **Dependency** — panic without AI
- **Equity gaps** if access/skills differ

AI is powerful, but it shouldn't become the brain.

*Let's talk specifically about incorrect information that AI might produce and how we can teach our kids to avoid that pitfall.*

This is **the** literacy skill of the AI era: **verification.**

Teach kids: AI is a **starting point, not a source.**

Practical habits:

- Never use AI facts without checking **2 real sources**
- Look for **dates, names, numbers** — those are most often wrong
- Ask AI: "How sure are you?" or "What could be wrong here?"
- Compare with textbooks, class notes, or trusted sites
- If a source can't be found → don't use it

Rule kids remember: **If you can't trace it, don't trust it.**

*You mentioned age difference considerations. Let's hear what you have to say on that.*

Age matters because AI demands skills kids develop over time.

**Elementary:** Use with adults. Focus on asking questions, generating curiosity, and modeling how to check facts. No independent content creation.

**Middle school:** Use for brainstorming, examples, and explanations — but require students to show their thinking and sources.

**High school:** Use as a tool for drafting, revising, and exploring perspectives. Emphasis on citation, verification, and maintaining their own voice. The younger the student, the more AI should support wonder — not production.

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*Any final information you think parents should know?*

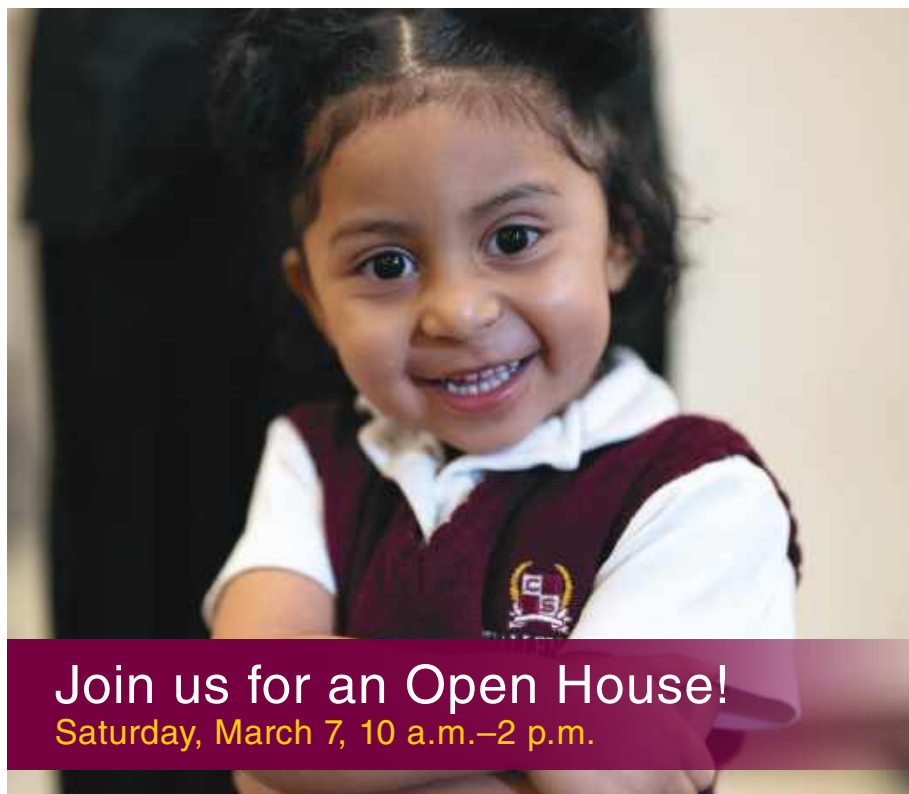
Big one: **AI use at home shapes school habits.**

Parents don't need to ban it — they need to **sit beside it** at first. Ask:

- "Show me how you got that answer."
- "What part did you figure out?"
- "How do we know this is right?"

Also, normalize struggle. If AI removes all frustration, it may also remove learning.

And model it yourself — say when you double-check AI. Kids copy process more than rules.



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# The Ultimate Guide to Austin Summer Camps

Summer in Austin has a rhythm all its own. Long, sunny days. Afternoons that stretch until the fireflies emerge. And for many families, the looming question that arrives weeks before the last day of school: What are my kids doing this summer?



You are in luck. Austin offers an extensive range of camps, from creative studios and science labs to sports fields and nature-based adventures. With so many choices, parents often face several questions. Should siblings attend the same camp? Should camps focus on existing interests or something new? Which is more appropriate, day or overnight camp? What about my child's safety?

The good news is that summer camps can be fun, rewarding, and safe, offering meaningful growth for children and reassurance for parents. With updated Texas camp safety requirements now in place, families can feel more confident that licensed camps are prepared, regulated, and focused on the well-being of the children they serve.

## Start With Your Child

Think about how your child learns, socializes, and what energizes them. Some children thrive on familiarity and routine. Returning to the same camp year after year can deepen skills, strengthen friendships,

and build confidence. Other children crave novelty and exploration. One week might be spent acting on stage, the next experimenting with science, and another splashing through outdoor adventure. Neither approach is better. The goal is to align the camp experience

with your child's personality, curiosity, and comfort level, as well as your family's schedule.

## Same Camp or Different Camps for Siblings?

This is one of the most common questions parents ask. Sometimes attending the same camp makes sense. It can simplify logistics, offer shared experiences, and provide emotional comfort, especially for younger children.

At the same time, different camps can honor each child's individuality. One sibling may love creative expression, while another prefers athletics or the magic of science. Choosing separate camps can help each

child feel comfortable and independent. Many families find balance by starting the summer together and branching out later.

## Types of Camps in the Austin Area

With a wide range of offerings, Austin's camp landscape has something for nearly every interest and age.

Day camps are a great entry point, especially for younger children. These programs provide structure, social interaction, and enrichment, while allowing kids to return home each evening. Arts camps, nature-based programs, and themed enrichment camps often work well for children ages 5 to 8.

Skill-focused camps allow children to build depth in areas they love. Art studios, theater programs, STEM camps, and sports clinics help kids grow. These programs are ideal for children who enjoy mastering specific skills.

Exploration or multi-subject camps expose children to a variety of activities within a single week. They are especially appealing for kids who enjoy variety or are still discovering their interests.

Overnight camps offer immersive experiences that promote independence,





resilience, and community. These camps often appeal to older elementary students, middle schoolers, and teens who are ready for a longer stretch away from home.

**Build on Passions or Try Something New?**

Another key decision is whether to choose camps that align with your child’s interests or encourage them to explore something unfamiliar. Camps that focus on existing passions can help children feel accomplished. They often return home proud of what they have learned and eager to share.

“Not all camps are right for everyone, but there is a right camp for everyone,” says Dan Neal, camp director at Camp Doublecreek, a third-generation family activity camp serving children ages 4 to 16. “The interests of your camper play a major role in selecting the right camp.”

Exploratory camps, on the other hand, invite curiosity. Trying something new in a supportive environment can build confidence, flexibility, and resilience. A child may discover a love for sewing, robotics, or outdoor leadership they never expected.

Listening to your child makes a difference. When children feel included in decisions, they are more likely to fully participate and enjoy the experience. Giving them a voice in choosing camp can also make mornings run more smoothly. Excitement often turns into quicker steps, faster shoe-tying, and a better start to the day.

**Camp Safety and What Parents Should Know**

Texas has strengthened youth camp safety standards to better protect children and support families. Licensed camps must comply with comprehensive regulations

designed to promote preparedness, health, and accountability.

“Texas has the highest safety regulations of any state for the camping industry, thanks to the newly passed legislation Heaven’s 27 Camp Safety Act (SB 1) and Youth CAMPER Act (HB 1),” Neal says. “In Texas, camps are regulated under the Department of State Health Services Youth Camp Division. If a parent wants to know whether a camp is licensed by the state, they can simply ask to see the camp’s youth camp license.”

**In short, licensed camps must:**

- Hold a state license and undergo regular inspections.
- Maintain updated emergency plans and provide safety training for staff.
- Follow location rules, including limits on operating in flood-prone areas.
- Meet health standards, including sanitation practices and access to medical support.
- Conduct criminal background checks on staff.
- Follow water safety rules, including the use of approved flotation devices.

When researching camps, parents should feel comfortable asking about safety procedures, staff training, and communication plans. Transparency is a sign of a well-run program.

**Questions to Ask Before You Register**

Beyond safety, consider how a camp supports different learning and social styles.

Ask how counselors handle conflict, homesickness, or health needs. Inquire about the camper-to-staff ratio and how much unstructured time is built into the day.

Practical details matter, too. Consider transportation, daily schedules, and how camp fits into your family’s summer rhythm. If possible, alternate camp weeks with downtime to avoid overscheduling.

Austin’s wide range of camps, paired with strengthened safety standards, allows families to choose experiences that feel both exciting and secure.

Neal adds, “Children receive many positive benefits from participating in a summer camp experience. We use the Doublecreek acronym PIC to showcase the benefits of camp. This stands for problem-solving, interpersonal skills, and creativity.”

When thoughtfully chosen, summer camp becomes more than a way to fill time. It becomes a place where children grow, build confidence, and create memories that last well beyond the season.



**Feature**

TRACIE SEED

*Seed is an Austin-based writer who is passionate about all things relating to family. She’s a maker and storyteller who shares whimsical art, sewing, and upcycling tutorials on her YouTube and TikTok channels, Freckled Fairy Upcycled. She enjoys spending time with loved ones and her fur babies, Roxy and Hazel.*



# SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

| CAMP                               | AGES         | WEBSITE  | PHONE        | LOCATION          |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>SUMMER CAMPS</b>                |              |  |              |                   |
| ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL   | 3-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.acmsaustin.org">www.acmsaustin.org</a>   | 512-474-2331 | W                 |
| ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL   | 5-16 yrs     | <a href="http://www.cordovanartschool.com">www.cordovanartschool.com</a>                                       | 512-275-4040 | CP/NW/SW/RR/GT    |
| BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS   | 9-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps">www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps</a> | 512-542-0076 | C                 |
| BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP      | 7-16 yrs     | <a href="http://www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com">www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com</a>                               |              | N/S/W/SW/CP/RR/GT |
| CAMP CHAMPIONS                     | 6-17 yrs     | <a href="http://www.campchampions.com">www.campchampions.com</a>   | 830-598-2571 | Marble Falls, TX  |
| CAMP DOUBLECREEK                   | 4-14 yrs     | <a href="http://www.campdoublecreek.com">www.campdoublecreek.com</a>   | 512-255-3661 | PF                |
| CAMP SWITCH WILLO                  | 6-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.switchwillo.com">www.switchwillo.com</a>   | 512-920-0554 | N                 |
| CAMP WARRIOR ST. MICHAEL'S PREP    | 4-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps">www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps</a>       | 512-327-7755 | SW                |
| CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP             | 5-12 yrs     | <a href="http://www.carpediempreschool.com">www.carpediempreschool.com</a>                                     | 512-957-9159 | L                 |
| COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER       | 5-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.countryhomelearningcenter.com">www.countryhomelearningcenter.com</a>                       | 512-288-8220 | N/S               |
| DANCE DISCOVERY                    | 3-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.dancediscovery.com">www.dancediscovery.com</a>   | 512-419-7611 | C/RR              |
| ENDEAVOR MONTESSORI SUMMER CAMP    | 5-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.endeavormontessori.com">www.endeavormontessori.com</a>                                     | 512-572-0400 | PF                |
| IDEA LAB                           | 5-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.austin.idealabkids.com">www.austin.idealabkids.com</a>                                     | 512-710-9654 | C/N/NW            |
| IRON HORSE COUNTRY RANCH           | 8-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.ironhorsecountry.com">www.ironhorsecountry.com</a>   |              | BT                |
| JUMP! GYMNASTICS                   | 3-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump">www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump</a>                           | 512-593-6226 | N/S/NW/H          |
| KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS            | 4-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.kidsactingstudio.com">www.kidsactingstudio.com</a>   | 512-836-5437 | 16 Locations      |
| MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS           | 4-12 yrs     | <a href="http://www.madscience.org">www.madscience.org</a>   | 512-892-1143 | Multiple          |
| MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU | 4-Adult      | <a href="http://www.mastergohring.com">www.mastergohring.com</a>   | 512-879-7553 | C                 |
| NEWK'S OUTBACK ADVENTURE CAMP      | 8-17 yrs     | <a href="http://www.newktennis.com">www.newktennis.com</a>   | 830-625-9105 | New Braunfels, TX |
| NITRO SWIM                         | Inf-Adult    | <a href="http://www.nitroswim.com">www.nitroswim.com</a>   | 512-259-7999 | NW/LT             |
| PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP           | 3-8th        | <a href="http://www.paragonprep.org">www.paragonprep.org</a>   | 512-459-5040 | N                 |
| SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S       | 6-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.sstx.org">www.sstx.org</a>   | 512-327-1213 | SW                |
| SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP             | 3 ½-10 ½ yrs | <a href="http://www.spicewoodcountry.com">www.spicewoodcountry.com</a>   | 512-346-2992 | NW                |
| STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS             | 5-11 yrs     | <a href="http://www.steppingstoneschool.com">www.steppingstoneschool.com</a>                                   | 512-459-0258 | 18 locations      |
| SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP           | 5 & up       | <a href="http://www.texashorsecamps.com">www.texashorsecamps.com</a>   | 830-460-8487 | Bandera, TX       |
| SYNERGY DANCE                      | 3-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.synergycastlestudio.com">www.synergycastlestudio.com</a>                                   | 512-327-4130 | W                 |
| TEX-ARTS                           | 5-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.tex-arts.org">www.tex-arts.org</a>   | 512-852-9079 | LT                |
| UT RTF SUMMER CAMP                 | 6-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.rtf.utexas.edu/camps">www.rtf.utexas.edu/camps</a>   | 512-471-4191 | C                 |
| ZACH SUMMER CAMPS                  | 4-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps">www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps</a>                 | 512-476-0541 | C/CP              |

## DAY CAMPS

|                                    |              |  |              |                   |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL   | 3-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.acmsaustin.org">www.acmsaustin.org</a>   | 512-474-2331 | W                 |
| ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL   | 5-16 yrs     | <a href="http://www.cordovanartschool.com">www.cordovanartschool.com</a>                                       | 512-275-4040 | CP/NW/SW/RR/GT    |
| BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS   | 9-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps">www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps</a> | 512-542-0076 | C                 |
| BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP      | 7-16 yrs     | <a href="http://www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com">www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com</a>                               |              | N/S/W/SW/CP/RR/GT |
| CAMP DOUBLECREEK                   | 4-14 yrs     | <a href="http://www.campdoublecreek.com">www.campdoublecreek.com</a>   | 512-255-3661 | PF                |
| CAMP SWITCH WILLO                  | 6-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.switchwillo.com">www.switchwillo.com</a>   | 512-920-0554 | N                 |
| CAMP WARRIOR ST. MICHAEL'S PREP    | 4-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps">www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps</a>       | 512-327-7755 | SW                |
| CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP             | 5-12 yrs     | <a href="http://www.carpediempreschool.com">www.carpediempreschool.com</a>                                     | 512-957-9159 | L                 |
| COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER       | 5-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.countryhomelearningcenter.com">www.countryhomelearningcenter.com</a>                       | 512-288-8220 | N, S              |
| DANCE DISCOVERY                    | 3-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.dancediscovery.com">www.dancediscovery.com</a>   | 512-419-7611 | C/RR              |
| ENDEAVOR MONTESSORI SUMMER CAMP    | 5-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.endeavormontessori.com">www.endeavormontessori.com</a>                                     | 512-572-0400 | PF                |
| IDEA LAB                           | 5-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.austin.idealabkids.com">www.austin.idealabkids.com</a>                                     | 512-710-9654 | C/N/NW            |
| JUMP! GYMNASTICS                   | 3-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump">www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump</a>                           | 512-593-6226 | N, S, NW, H       |
| KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS            | 4-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.kidsactingstudio.com">www.kidsactingstudio.com</a>   | 512-836-5437 | 16 Locations      |
| MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS           | 4-12 yrs     | <a href="http://www.madscience.org">www.madscience.org</a>   | 512-892-1143 | Multiple          |
| MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU | 4-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.mastergohring.com">www.mastergohring.com</a>   | 512-879-7553 | C                 |
| NITRO SWIM                         |              | <a href="http://www.nitroswim.com">www.nitroswim.com</a>   | 512-259-7999 | NW/LT             |
| PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP           | 3-8th        | <a href="http://www.paragonprep.org">www.paragonprep.org</a>   | 512-459-5040 | N                 |
| SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S       | 6-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.sstx.org">www.sstx.org</a>   | 512-327-1213 | SW                |
| SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP             | 3 ½-10 ½ yrs | <a href="http://www.spicewoodcountry.com">www.spicewoodcountry.com</a>   | 512-346-2992 | NW                |
| STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS             | 5-11 yrs     | <a href="http://www.steppingstoneschool.com">www.steppingstoneschool.com</a>                                   | 512-459-0258 | 18 locations      |
| SYNERGY DANCE                      | 3-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.synergycastlestudio.com">www.synergycastlestudio.com</a>                                   | 512-327-4130 | W                 |
| TEX-ARTS                           | 5-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.tex-arts.org">www.tex-arts.org</a>   | 512-852-9079 | LT                |
| UT RTF SUMMER CAMP                 | 6-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.rtf.utexas.edu/camps">www.rtf.utexas.edu/camps</a>   | 512-471-4191 | C                 |
| ZACH SUMMER CAMPS                  | 4-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps">www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps</a>                 | 512-476-0541 | C/CP              |

## OVERNIGHT CAMPS

|                              |          |  |              |                  |
|------------------------------|----------|--|--------------|------------------|
| CAMP CHAMPIONS               | 6-17 yrs | <a href="http://www.campchampions.com">www.campchampions.com</a>     | 830-598-2571 | Marble Falls, TX |
| SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S | 6-18     | <a href="http://www.sstx.org">www.sstx.org</a>                       | 512-327-1213 | SW               |
| SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP     | 5 & up   | <a href="http://www.texashorsecamps.com">www.texashorsecamps.com</a> | 830-460-8487 | Bandera, TX      |

LOCATIONS  
N, C, S, E, W, NW, SW  
for Austin locations

B for Buda  
BR for Burnet  
BT for Bertram

CP for Cedar Park  
GT for Georgetown  
H for Hutto

L for LEANDER  
LT for Lake Travis  
PF for Pflugerville

OL for Online  
RR for Round Rock  
SM for San Marcos

## ACADEMIC CAMPS

|                                  |              |  |              |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| BADGERDOG CREATIVE WRITING CAMPS | 9-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps">www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps</a> | 512-542-0076 | C            |
| CAMP WARRIOR ST. MICHAEL'S PREP  | 4-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps">www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps</a>       | 512-327-7755 | SW           |
| CARPE DIEM SUMMER CAMP           | 5-12 yrs     | <a href="http://www.carpediempreschool.com">www.carpediempreschool.com</a>                                     | 512-957-9159 | L            |
| COUNTRY HOME LEARNING CENTER     | 5-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.countryhomelearningcenter.com">www.countryhomelearningcenter.com</a>                       | 512-288-8220 | N/S          |
| IDEA LAB                         | 5-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.austin.idealabkids.com">www.austin.idealabkids.com</a>                                     | 512-710-9654 | C/N/NW       |
| MAD SCIENCE SUMMER CAMPS         | 4-12 yrs     | <a href="http://www.madscience.org">www.madscience.org</a>   | 512-892-1143 | Multiple     |
| PARAGON PREP SUMMER CAMP         | 3-8th        | <a href="http://www.paragonprep.org">www.paragonprep.org</a>   | 512-459-5040 | N            |
| SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S     | 6-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.sstx.org">www.sstx.org</a>   | 512-327-1213 | SW           |
| SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP           | 3 ½-10 ½ yrs | <a href="http://www.spicewoodcountry.com">www.spicewoodcountry.com</a>   | 512-346-2992 | NW           |
| STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS           | 5-11 yrs     | <a href="http://www.steppingstoneschool.com">www.steppingstoneschool.com</a>                                   | 512-459-0258 | 17 locations |

## ART CAMPS

|                                  |          |  |              |                |
|----------------------------------|----------|--|--------------|----------------|
| ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL | 3-10 yrs | <a href="http://www.acmsaustin.org">www.acmsaustin.org</a>                                     | 512-474-2331 | W              |
| ART CAMPS OF CORDOVAN ART SCHOOL | 5-16 yrs | <a href="http://www.cordovanartschool.com">www.cordovanartschool.com</a>                       | 512-275-4040 | CP/NW/SW/RR/GT |
| DANCE DISCOVERY                  | 3-18 yrs | <a href="http://www.dancediscovery.com">www.dancediscovery.com</a>                             | 512-419-7611 | C, RR          |
| ENDEAVOR MONTESSORI SUMMER CAMP  | 5-10 yrs | <a href="http://www.endeavormontessori.com">www.endeavormontessori.com</a>                     | 512-572-0400 | PF             |
| KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS          | 4-18 yrs | <a href="http://www.kidsactingstudio.com">www.kidsactingstudio.com</a>                         | 512-836-5437 | 16 Locations   |
| SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S     | 6-18 yrs | <a href="http://www.sstx.org">www.sstx.org</a>   | 512-327-1213 | SW             |
| ZACH SUMMER CAMPS                | 4-10 yrs | <a href="http://www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps">www.zachtheater.org/zach-youth/camps</a> | 512-476-0541 | C/CP           |

## SPORT CAMPS

|                                    |              |  |              |                   |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| BRANDY PERRYMAN SHOOTING CAMP      | 7-16 yrs     | <a href="http://www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com">www.bperrymanshootingcamp.com</a>                         |              | N/S/W/SW/CP/RR/GT |
| CAMP SWITCH WILLO                  | 6-13 yrs     | <a href="http://www.switchwillo.com">www.switchwillo.com</a>   | 512-920-0554 | N                 |
| CAMP WARRIOR ST. MICHAEL'S PREP    | 4-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps">www.smcprep.org/student-life/summer-camps</a> | 512-327-7755 | SW                |
| JUMP! GYMNASTICS                   | 3-10 yrs     | <a href="http://www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump">www.jumpgymnastics.com/campjump</a>                     | 512-705-9659 | B/C/S             |
| MASTER GOHRING TAI CHI AND KUNG FU | 4-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.mastergohring.com">www.mastergohring.com</a>   | 512-879-7553 | C                 |
| NITRO SWIM                         |              | <a href="http://www.nitroswim.com">www.nitroswim.com</a>   | 512-259-7999 | NW/LT             |
| SPARTAN CAMP @ ST. STEPHEN'S       | 6-18 yrs     | <a href="http://www.sstx.org">www.sstx.org</a>   | 512-327-1213 | SW                |
| SPICEWOOD COUNTRY CAMP             | 3 ½-10 ½ yrs | <a href="http://www.spicewoodcountry.com">www.spicewoodcountry.com</a>                                   | 512-346-2992 | NW                |
| STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS             | 5-11 yrs     | <a href="http://www.steppingstoneschool.com">www.steppingstoneschool.com</a>                             | 512-459-0258 | 17 locations      |
| SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP           | 5 & up       | <a href="http://www.texashorsecamps.com">www.texashorsecamps.com</a>                                     | 830-460-8487 | Bandera, TX       |

## TRADITIONAL CAMPS

|                       |          |  |              |                  |
|-----------------------|----------|--|--------------|------------------|
| CAMP CHAMPIONS        | 6-17 yrs | <a href="http://www.campchampions.com">www.campchampions.com</a>     | 830-598-2571 | Marble Falls, TX |
| CAMP DOUBLECREEK      | 4-14 yrs | <a href="http://www.campdoublecreek.com">www.campdoublecreek.com</a> | 512-255-3661 | PF               |
| CAMP STEWART FOR BOYS | 6-16 yrs | <a href="http://www.campstewart.com">www.campstewart.com</a>         | 830-238-4670 | Hunt, TX         |



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CAMP BUILDS  
STRONG KIDS.

# CAMP CHAMPIONS

[CAMPCHAMPIONS.COM](http://CAMPCHAMPIONS.COM)

WATCH  
THE  
VIDEO





**“Where every camper leaves knowing someone believes in them!”**



**Spring Break  
Summer  
Horseback Riding  
REGISTER NOW!**



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**ENDEAVOR  
MONTESSORI**

Our summer camp program combines fun, outdoor adventures and learning, ensuring your child stays engaged and thrives all summer long.

- ✔ Full-time programs for ages 5 to 10
- ✔ Students explore a diverse range of subjects, including cooking, arts, sports and more!
- ✔ Every week features an exciting new theme with engaging, hands-on activities
- ✔ Indoor and outdoor group activities
- ✔ A fun and enriching summer experience that keeps your child mentally engaged and socially connected



**Spots are limited and filling up fast.  
Register today at  
[www.camps.endeavorschools.com](http://www.camps.endeavorschools.com)**

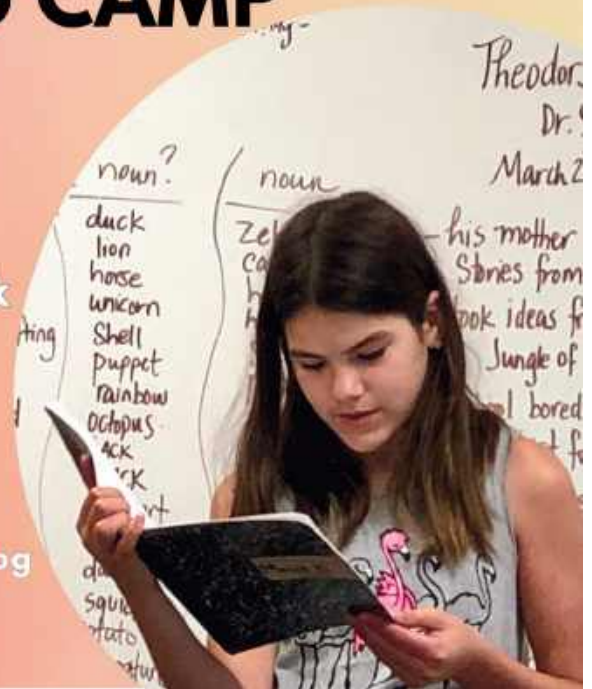
Endeavor Montessori Pflugerville  
Location: 18817 N. Heatherwilde Blvd – Building 2, Pflugerville, TX 78660  
Phone: (512) 572-0400

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- Taught by professional writers
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- Locations in Austin & Round Rock
  - 5% sibling discount

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[austinlibrary.org/badgerdog](http://austinlibrary.org/badgerdog)



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Our summer camp program offers an exciting blend of fun, sun and education, so your child can thrive all summer long.

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- ✓ Students learn about a wide variety of topics, including robotics, aviation, visual arts and much more!
- ✓ Each week has a fun, new theme with interactive activities
- ✓ Indoor and outdoor group activities
- ✓ An enjoyable learning experience all summer long that will keep your child mentally active and socially engaged



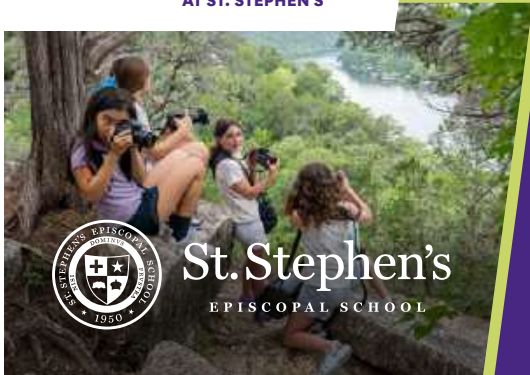
**Spots are limited and filling up fast.  
Register today at  
[www.camps.endeavorschools.com](http://www.camps.endeavorschools.com)**

Carpe Diem Private Preschool  
Location: 14009 Ronald Reagan Blvd., Leander, TX 78641  
Phone: (512) 957-9159



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Voted Most Fun Summer Camp!

Camps are weekly  
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\*Must be potty trained

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**FULL DAY (8:30-3:00) \$445**  
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10% sibling discount.

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
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| JUNE 8-12      | Fairytale Adventure      |
| JUNE 15-19     | Cirque du Jump!          |
| JUNE 22-26     | How to Train Your Dragon |
| JUN 29 - JUL 3 | Renaissance Revival      |
| JULY 6-10      | Olympic Stars            |
| JULY 13-17     | Rainforest Funfari       |
| JULY 20-24     | Pirates!                 |
| JULY 27-31     | Shipwreck                |
| AUGUST 3-7     | Discovering Atlantis     |
| AUGUST 10-14   | Magical Creatures        |

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**SUMMER CAMP**  
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**cordovan ARTschool**

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**Buy 3 get the 4<sup>th</sup> camp free\***  
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**- or -**  
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- Georgetown
- NW Austin
- SW Austin
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**AGES 4-18**

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Aladdin, Annie, Barbie & Friends, Descendants, Encanto, Frozen, Lion King, Matilda, Moana, Newsies, Sing, Sound of Music, Trolls, Wicked, Willy Wonka, and Wizard of Oz

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You're born to be Golden!

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Work with a professional vocal coach and choreographer to perform your favorite songs!

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"A 46-year tradition for children 4 to 10 1/2 in Northwest Austin"

Safe, shaded day camp with an emphasis on swimming, horseback riding, sports & outdoor activities and art.

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| Session 1: June 1  | Session 4: July 13 |
| Session 2: June 15 | Session 5: July 27 |
| Session 3: June 29 | Session 6: Aug 10  |

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\$1,085 for 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

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## Lifelines

MICHELLE OVERMAN

*Overman is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Austin, TX. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two young boys.*



# Build the Comeback Mindset in Kids

The air was thick with tension as the crowd watched an epic battle between two high-caliber college tennis players. The visiting team's spectators held their collective breath when their player became physically ill on the bench after losing a point. A humid, punishingly hot day in mid-May had created brutal playing conditions. Sweat dripped down spectators' foreheads, fueled by both the heat and the realization that "their guy" was losing. Without a win in this match, the conference championship would slip away.

As the training staff evaluated the athlete, questions lingered about whether he was healthy and whether he could, or should, continue. Ultimately, he was cleared to resume play. What followed was one of the most remarkable performances I have ever witnessed. A determined young athlete fought through illness and fatigue, rallied from behind, and secured the conference championship for his team.

His accomplishment transcended physical ability. He summoned extraordinary mental fortitude to overcome sickness in the middle of a match he had been losing, then captured a title for his squad. Those who witnessed his triumph over adversity have not forgotten that day.

This is more than a compelling comeback story. It is a vivid example of a trait most parents long to instill in their children: resilience.

We see resilience displayed in sports and in other arenas that demand performance under pressure. It requires mental toughness and confidence to navigate anxiety, stress, fear of failure, and self-doubt. As parents, we want to nurture resilience and confidence, yet we do not always know when or how to cultivate them. How can we recognize when our child's confidence is wavering? And when we see the signs, how do we offer support without unintentionally increasing the pressure?

### Notice the signs

To help our children well, we must first practice awareness ourselves. Before reacting, pause and consider what may be driving their behavior. Start by asking:

- What is my child saying about themselves in relation to their performance? What narratives are they forming?
- How do they internalize setbacks or underperformance?
- Is there a noticeable gap between how they practice and how they perform in competition?
- Are they placing pressure on themselves, or feeling it from external sources?

We all engage in self-talk, and sometimes that dialogue is spoken aloud. The words our children use reveal how they see themselves. Absolute statements such as "I can never" or "I always," followed by

negative conclusions, can signal harmful self-narratives. "I always mess things up." "I'm just not good at this." Over time, these beliefs erode confidence.

It is equally important to listen for how your child describes pressure. Are they comparing themselves to teammates in ways that diminish their own abilities? "I'm not as skilled as they are." What messages are coming from coaches, peers, or even well-meaning adults? A coach who focuses solely on winning and uses all-or-nothing motivation may unintentionally heighten anxiety.

Beyond self-talk, observe the difference between practice and performance. If your child performs well in practice but consistently struggles in games or competitions, anxiety may be interfering. Pay attention to body language and tone leading up to an event. They may not articulate their fears directly, but their behavior can provide clues. Difficulty sleeping, irritability, withdrawal, or physical complaints such as headaches or an upset stomach may signal mounting stress.

These signs are not reasons for panic. They are invitations to lean in with curiosity and care. When we notice patterns, we are better equipped to respond thoughtfully and, if necessary, seek additional support.

### How to help

Once you recognize signs of wavering

confidence, consider the source of the pressure. If it is external, you may need to advocate for your child. That could mean adjusting expectations, reevaluating commitments, or having a constructive conversation with a coach. If the pressure is internal, you can help your child reshape how they interpret performance and success.

In sport psychology, goal orientation generally falls into two categories: outcome orientation and mastery orientation. Outcome orientation centers on results, wins, rankings, and statistics. While outcomes matter, an exclusive focus on them can increase anxiety and undermine confidence when results fall short.

Mastery orientation emphasizes growth, effort, and learning. Mistakes become opportunities for improvement rather than evidence of inadequacy. Children who adopt a mastery mindset are more likely to persevere because their self-worth is not tied solely to a scoreboard.

You can reinforce this approach at home. Acknowledge your child's disappointment when they underperform. Avoid minimizing their feelings. At the same time, highlight their growth and strengths. Comment on their preparation, work ethic, creativity, and persistence. For example: "I know that wasn't the result you hoped for, but I saw how hard you worked this week. Your footwork has improved so much." Balanced feedback helps children see that their value extends beyond a single outcome.

Parents are often the most influential external voice in a child's life. When we offer steady encouragement and realistic perspective, we counter harsh self-criticism. We provide an alternative narrative rooted in truth and compassion.

Confidence is also built through preparation. Repetition fosters familiarity, and familiarity breeds trust. When children can connect their effort to their readiness, they are more likely to believe in their abilities. A simple reminder can be powerful: "You practiced this every day. You are ready." Such statements reinforce the link between effort and competence.

At times, however, a child's struggles may feel more intense or persistent than typical nerves. If your support at home does not seem to help, seeking professional guidance can be a proactive step. For younger children, a licensed therapist can address stress management and

underlying anxiety. As children mature and become more invested in performance, a sport psychologist can teach strategies to manage pressure and strengthen mental skills.

Seeking help is not a sign of weakness. It models self-awareness and resourcefulness, and it communicates that well-being matters more than any trophy.

Many of us hope to witness our child rise to the occasion in a defining moment, like the match I observed years ago. We would feel immense pride, not simply because of a victory, but because of the resilience and confidence displayed in the face of adversity.

Yet resilience is rarely built in a single dramatic comeback. It is cultivated in everyday moments when children confront challenges, reframe setbacks, and choose to try again. With intentional support, open dialogue, and, when needed, outside resources, we can help our children develop lasting confidence and the capacity to endure hard moments, so they're prepared for when their own high-stakes opportunity arrives.

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DR. BETTY RICHARDSON

Richardson, PhD, RN, CS, LPC, LMFT, is an Austin-based psychotherapist.



# 10 Ways to Managing Chronic Illness at School

**Q** I am a single mother of an 8-year-old daughter, Carly Jayne. At a recent visit with her pediatrician, we learned she has Type 1 diabetes. How do I help her manage life at home and at school with this chronic illness? I know there are other children at school with conditions such as asthma, seizure disorders, and more. How can any parent help a child manage a chronic illness and succeed at school?

**A** A diagnosis like this adds new responsibilities and challenges for both parent and child.

1. **Start** by reminding yourself and your daughter that you are capable of meeting this challenge together. You are a team.
2. **Maintain** a positive, can-do attitude while acknowledging that there will be

adjustments along the way.

3. **Discuss** the condition. Use simple, age-appropriate language. Make sure your daughter understands what diabetes is, why care is important, and what steps she can take to stay healthy.
4. **Help** your child identify and express feelings such as anger, frustration, or feeling overwhelmed. Acknowledge that managing diabetes is not always easy.
5. **Provide** healthy outlets for emotions. She might draw pictures about her experiences, keep a journal, attend counseling, or set aside time each day to talk with you about her feelings.
6. **Learn** as much as you and your child can about the condition. The more informed you both are, the more confident

you will feel. Connecting with other parents of children with the same diagnosis can also provide encouragement, practical advice, and reassurance.

7. **Partner** closely with school staff. Meet with the school nurse, teachers, principal, and dietitian to ensure they understand your child's needs and know what to do in an emergency. If the school does not have a full-time nurse, consider whether a campus with full-time nursing support would better meet your child's medical needs.
8. **Create** a concise information sheet outlining possible symptoms, necessary interventions, and where supplies, such as glucose snacks, are stored. Share this with teachers and appropriate staff. Clear instructions can make

a critical difference in situations involving low blood sugar, asthma attacks, or seizures.

9. **Teach** your child to recognize symptoms and ask for help when needed. Self-advocacy is an essential life skill.
10. **Explore** summer camps designed for children with specific chronic illnesses. Diabetes camps, for example, help children build confidence, learn self-management skills, and connect with peers who share similar experiences

Feeling overwhelmed at first is normal. As you take practical steps and build a support system, managing your child's chronic illness will become more routine and less intimidating.

VISITAR [www.austinfamily.com](http://www.austinfamily.com)  
10 claves para gestionar las enfermedades crónicas en la escuela

# Austin Then and Now

## Rodeo Austin

TRACIE SEED

*Seed is an Austin-based writer who is passionate about all things relating to family. She's a maker and storyteller who shares whimsical art, sewing, and upcycling tutorials on her YouTube and TikTok channels, Freckled Fairy Upcycled. She enjoys spending time with loved ones and her fur babies, Roxy and Hazel.*

### Then

In 1938, when Travis County had far more pasture than pavement, Rodeo Austin planted its roots. With more than 2,600 farms in the area, agriculture was not background music, it was daily life. Community leaders organized a livestock show to strengthen the economy and give farmers, ranchers, and young exhibitors a place to showcase their work. The earliest event, called the Austin Baby Beef Show, featured just 16 animals and unfolded on temporary grounds at the Texas State Capitol, a setting that underscored how closely agriculture and civic life were intertwined.

There was no single founder. Instead, the show grew from a collaborative effort. Agricultural advocates, extension agents, business leaders, and volunteers built an event centered on opportunity, education, and pride in rural skills. Youth involvement played an early role, with participants developing responsibility and hands-on knowledge by raising and showing livestock, experiences tied to programs such as 4-H and National FFA Organization.

As the years passed, the event expanded beyond a simple livestock show, gradually incorporating rodeo competitions and broader exhibitions. Even in its early form, it served as a bridge, keeping a growing city connected to the land, the work, and the traditions that shaped Central Texas.

### Now

In 2026, Rodeo Austin remains a major cultural celebration of Texas life, blending rodeo competition, live music, fair attractions, and youth involvement. The event runs March 13 through March 28 at the Travis County Expo Center, drawing families, longtime fans, and first-time visitors alike. Each evening features ProRodeo competitions such as bull riding and barrel racing, followed by boot-stomping concerts.

The fairgrounds offer more than arena events. Carnival rides, food vendors, shopping, livestock shows, pony rides, and petting zoos create a full fair experience for all ages. Agricultural mechanics displays and junior livestock competitions highlight youth skills and reinforce the event's original educational mission.

Community traditions also remain central to the season. BBQ Austin brings cook-offs, music, carnival lights, and sound, extending the celebration across multiple areas. Proceeds support scholarships, agricultural education, and youth programs throughout Texas. Rodeo Austin reflects both heritage and growth, offering a homegrown place where competition, music, learning, and family traditions



# March 2026 calendar

Go to [www.austinfamily.com](http://www.austinfamily.com) for expanded listings.

Check our calendar online, which is updated daily. Any family-friendly events can be posted at [www.austinfamily.com](http://www.austinfamily.com) and will be made live once approved. Certain restrictions apply.

## Sun 1

**H-E-B First Sunday.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrate Black Women's History Month. Bullock History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. FREE. [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

**Miss Nelson is Missing.** 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Miss Nelson can't control her crazy classroom because she's just too nice. Austin Scottish Rite Theater, 207 W. 18th St. \$17 - \$24. [www.scottishritetheater.org](http://www.scottishritetheater.org).

**Charlotte's Web.** 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. After Fern saves Wilbur, the runt of the litter, it's up to Charlotte the spider to spin a web of miracles. Zach Theater, 202 S. Lamar Blvd. \$31 - \$44. [www.zachtheater.org](http://www.zachtheater.org).

## Tue 3

**Sports Capital of Texas Motorcycle Rodeo.** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Round Rock Police Department, in partnership with the Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA) and the Round Rock Express, will be hosting the event. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd. [www.roundrocktexas.gov](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov).

## Wed 4

CONTINUED: **Sports Capital of Texas Motorcycle Rodeo**, see Tue 3.

## Thu 5

**Art for Teens: Paper Gilding.** 4 to 5:30 p.m. Teens and tweens, come get crafty after school at Westbank. Each month we will have a new project, and all materials will be provided. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. [www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com).

CONTINUED: **Sports Capital of Texas Motorcycle Rodeo**, see Tue 3.

## Fri 6

**Dougherty Arts Center - Art in Cahoots.** 10 to 11 a.m. Art in Cahoots presents a pop-up arts experience for caregivers and children. Register on Eventbrite. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**Frost Chuck Wagon Lunch.** 1:30 to 3 p.m. Hey, y'all, it is rodeo time, which means we're cooking something up. Frost Bank Lakeway Financial Center, 1408 RR 620 S. FREE. [www.frostbank.com](http://www.frostbank.com).

CONTINUED: **Sports Capital of Texas Motorcycle Rodeo**, see Tue 3.

## Sat 7

**It's My Park Day.** 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. It's My Park Day is Austin Parks Foundation's biannual, community-led day of service occurring every spring and fall. Various Austin parks. 1114 Nile St. FREE. [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org).

**Great Texas River Cleanup.** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join us for the 41st Annual Great Texas River Cleanup and make a difference in your community. Various parks. [www.sanmarcostx.gov](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov).

**Beginner Birding Walk & Talk.** 9 to 10:30 a.m. If you've ever wanted to learn more about local birds and how to identify them, now is your chance. Twin Oaks Branch, 1800 S. Fifth St. FREE. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**Open House Challenger School.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We offer uniquely fun and academic classes for preschool

through 8th grade. Check out one of the three locations near you. Challenger School, 15101 Avery Ranch Blvd.; 13015 Pond Springs Rd.; 1521 Joyce Ln. FREE. [www.challengerschool.com](http://www.challengerschool.com).

**Mason Heritage Day.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Take a step back in time at Leander's Mason Homestead. Enjoy food and fun while learning about the fascinating history of the region. Mason Homestead, 1101 S. Bagdad Rd. [www.leandertx.gov](http://www.leandertx.gov).

**Texas Wildlife Day.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Celebrate everything feathered, furred, smooth, and scaled. Texas Science & Natural History Museum, 2400 Trinity St. \$0 - \$10. [www.sciencemuseum.utexas.edu](http://www.sciencemuseum.utexas.edu).

**Birds of the Austin Area.** 1 to 2 p.m. Enjoy learning about the diversity of birds that call Austin home, or that pass through during migration from Teresa Johnson of Travis Audubon. University Hills Branch, 4721 Loyola Ln. FREE. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**Campfire - Zach North.** 4 p.m. Come gather around our indoor campfire and experience interactive songs and dances in a new work for kids up to age five and their caregivers. Each family will get a blanket, a pillow, an egg shaker, and some other surprises as you enter our imaginary forest. Zach North, 14010 Hwy. 183. \$13. [www.zachtheater.org](http://www.zachtheater.org).

**The Georgetown Swirl.** 4 to 8:30 p.m. The Georgetown Main Street Program invites you to the 16th Annual Georgetown Swirl, a Texas Downtown Association Presidents Award-winning celebration. Georgetown Square, 502 S. Main St. [www.visit.georgetown.org](http://www.visit.georgetown.org).

CONTINUED: **Miss Nelson is Missing**, see Sun 1; **Charlotte's Web**, see Sun 1; **Sports Capital of Texas Motorcycle Rodeo**, see Tue 3.

## Sun 8

CONTINUED: **Miss Nelson is Missing**, see Sun 1; **Charlotte's Web**, see Sun 1.

## Mon 9

**Art for Teens: Felt Pizza.** 4:30 p.m. Hang out after school and relax with a simple craft. Westbank Community Library, 1309 Westbank Dr. [www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com).

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**Tue 10**

**Snow White.** 7:30 p.m. Inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairy tale, Snow White is reimagined through expressive choreography that brings inner forces to life. Penfold Theatre, 2120 N. Mays St., #290. [www.roundrocktexas.gov](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov).

**Wed 11**

**Sprouts.** 10 to 11 a.m. Tailored for children ages 3-5 years, Sprouts is a celebration of nature play, led by trained guides. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave. [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org).

**Art After School: Paper Gilding.**

4:30 p.m. Elementary-aged kids, come get crafty after school at Laura's. Each month we will have a new project, and all materials will be provided. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. [www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com).

**Fri 13**

**Milwood Branch Library - Art in Cahoots.**

10 to 11 a.m. Art in Cahoots presents a pop-up arts experience for caregivers and children. Register on Eventbrite. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst Dr. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**Sat 14**

CONTINUED: **Miss Nelson is Missing**, see Sun 1; **Charlotte's Web**, see Sun 1; **Campfire - Zach North**, see Sat 7.

**Sun 15**

**Time to Paddy 5k/10k & Lucky 13.1.**

8 to 11 a.m. Join us for the annual Time to Paddy 5k/10k and Lucky 13.1 Half Marathon. A St. Patrick-themed run that is perfect for the whole family. Pfennig Park, 1316 Pfennig Ln. \$25.98. [www.runsignup.com/Race/TX/Pflugerville](http://www.runsignup.com/Race/TX/Pflugerville).

CONTINUED: **Miss Nelson is Missing**, see Sun 1; **Charlotte's Web**, see Sun 1.

**Mon 16**

**Come & Go Crafts - Wooden Wind Chimes.**

1 to 2 p.m. Join us in the Lakeway children's room for a come and go craft. Youth Services Librarian Nicholle will have materials to decorate wooden wind chimes. Lakeway Library, 1938 Lohmans Crossing Rd. [www.laketravislibrary.org](http://www.laketravislibrary.org).

**Juggling Show with Jason & Matt Tardy.**

1 p.m. Come enjoy high-energy juggling and off-the-cuff comedy by professional jugglers Jason and Matt Tardy. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. [www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com).

**Wed 18**

**Homeschool Program.**

1 to 2 p.m. Join Youth Services Librarian Nicholle Halprin for a unique homeschool program. Lakeway Library, 1938 Lohmans Crossing Rd. [www.laketravislibrary.org](http://www.laketravislibrary.org).

**Juggling Workshop with Jason and Matt Tardy.**

3 p.m. Learn to juggle with world-class stunt jugglers, twin brothers Matt and Jason Tardy. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. [www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com).

**Thu 19**

**Little Texans.** 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Learn about Texas trains through crafts, activities, and storytime during this program especially designed for little Texans (ages 2-5) and their caregivers. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. FREE for members. [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

**Fri 20**

**Austin Central Library - Art in Cahoots.**


10 to 11 a.m. Art in Cahoots presents a pop-up arts experience for caregivers and children. Register on Eventbrite. Austin Central Library, 701 W. Cesar Chavez St. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**Sat 21**

**Texas Ranger Day.** 12 to 4 p.m. Looking for some Texas history, food, fun, and a little road trip? We've got you covered with Texas Ranger Day. Burton Railroad Depot, 507 N. Railroad St. FREE. [www.burtonheritagesociety.org](http://www.burtonheritagesociety.org).

CONTINUED: **Charlotte's Web**, see Sun 1; **Campfire - Zach North**, see Sat 7.


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**Sun 22**

**H-E-B Free Fourth Sunday.** 1 to 5 p.m. Enjoy free museum admission all day during H-E-B Free Fourth Sundays, held the fourth Sunday of every month. Texas Science & Natural History Museum, 2400 Trinity St. FREE. [www.sciencemuseum.utexas.edu](http://www.sciencemuseum.utexas.edu).

CONTINUED: **Charlotte's Web**, see Sun 1.

**Wed 25**

**Cowboy Boot Embroidery.** 4:30 p.m. Whether you're a seasoned stitcher or a novice, this event is perfect for all skill levels. We'll have templates for you to follow and staff to help. Laura Bush Community Library, 9411 Bee Cave Rd. [www.westbanklibrary.com](http://www.westbanklibrary.com).

**Music on Main: Spring-Summer 2026.** 7 to 9 p.m. Don't miss out on the free fun. We're excited to share weekly Wednesday nights with you and live music spanning across all genres. Round Rock City Council Chambers, 221 E. Main St. [www.roundrocktexas.gov](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov).

CONTINUED: **Sprouts**, see Wed 11.

**Thu 26**

**Adventures in 3D: Easter.** 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Join us for a hands-on workshop exploring the world of 3D printing by creating and designing an Easter-themed trinket. Yarborough Branch, 2200 Hancock Dr. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**Gabby's Dollhouse Live.** 6 p.m. Terrapin Station Entertainment and TEG Life Like Touring, in association with Universal Destinations and Experiences, presents the event. Bass Concert Hall, 2350 Robert Dedman Dr. \$37.80 - \$214.80. [www.texasperformingarts.org](http://www.texasperformingarts.org).

**Fri 27**

**George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center - Art in Cahoots.** 10 to 11 a.m. Art in Cahoots presents a pop-up arts experience for caregivers and children. Register on Eventbrite. George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center, 5801 Ainez Dr. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).

**Sat 28**

**Adaptive and Inclusive Egg Hunt.** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department invite you to come out to the Play for All Park for our annual Adaptive and Inclusive Egg Hunt. Rabb House, 151 N. A.W. Grimes Blvd. [www.roundrocktexas.gov](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov).

**EGGstravaganza.** 12 p.m. EGGstravaganza is the City of Lakeway's beloved annual Easter celebration. Enjoy a free family event with age-specific egg hunts. Lakeway City Hall, 1102 Lohmans Crossing Rd. FREE. [www.lakeway-tx.gov](http://www.lakeway-tx.gov).

CONTINUED: **Campfire - Zach North**, see Sat 7.

**Sun 29**

**Strength in the City Festival.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Austin's premier wellness festival returns to Waterloo Park for a full day of movement, mindfulness, and community. Waterloo Park, 500 E. 12th St. \$39. [www.sweatpals.com](http://www.sweatpals.com).

CONTINUED: **Charlotte's Web**, see Sun 1.

**Mon 30**

**Family Naturalist.** 4 to 6 p.m. The great outdoors comes to Windsor Park Library. We will explore with hands-on activities and nature-based play. Windsor Park Branch, 5833 Westminster Dr. FREE. [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov).



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# KIDZONE

## The Magic Bloom Experiment



### What You Need:

- Wide bowl filled with water
- Flower template
- Scissors
- Markers
- Colored pencil

### What You Do:

**Step 1:** Cut out the flower template.

**Step 2:** Decorate your flower with markers. Optional: Write a secret message in the center of the flower using a colored pencil.

**Step 3:** Gently fold each petal toward the center of the flower.

**Step 4:** Place the folded flower in the bowl of water and watch the petals. What happens?

**Step 5:** Remove the flower from the water and let it dry. The wet marker will create a beautiful design, and you can use your flower as a decoration.

### What's Going On:

You used capillary action to make your flower bloom. Water has many important properties and functions. In plants, water acts like a skeleton, helping leaves hold themselves upright. This pressure is called turgor pressure.

When plant leaves wilt and droop, it is because there is not enough water to maintain this pressure. The plant is not dead, but it is a sign that it needs water soon.

A plant's stem is a transportation system filled with tiny tubes. The attractive force between water molecules and the sides of these tubes is strong enough to draw water up the plant, just as water moved through the paper to make your flower bloom. In the tallest trees, capillary action can pull water up dozens of meters.

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**Cameron Park Zoo** has two brand-new residents—**Dr. Roolittle** and **Ladybug**, our delightful red kangaroos! They just arrived and are settling in beautifully. Dr. Roolittle's already showing off his big boy bounce, and Ladybug's taking her sweet time scoping out the place.

Hop on over to Cameron Park Zoo in Waco and give them a proper Texas Howdy! Bring the family and make a day of it. These two can't wait to meet y'all!

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