

Texas Outdoor Family

Weather Cancellation and Lightning Safety Policy



We are committed to providing first time campers with a safe and enjoyable introduction to the outdoors. Because weather has an impact on the safety and comfort of participants, as well as the longevity of equipment, the following weather plan has been established.

Cancellation decisions will be made based upon the forecast of the zip code of the park from www.wunderground.com at noon on the Wednesday before events scheduled to start on Friday evening, or noon on the Thursday before events scheduled to start on Saturday morning.

Public and partner workshops will be **canceled** if:

Wind

- Winds are forecast to be sustained at 20 mph or greater for 3 or more hours.
- Wind gusts are forecast to be 25 mph or greater for any duration of the event.

Temperature

- Temperatures are forecast with a low of 42°F or below for 3 or more hours.
- Temperatures are forecast with a low of 50°F and 50% chance of precipitation for 3 or more hours.
- Temperatures are forecast with a heat index of 102°F or higher.

Precipitation

- Rain volumes are forecast to be greater than 1.5" during the duration of the event.
- Rain is forecast with a likelihood of 50% or greater for 3 or more recreational hours, based upon the workshop agenda.
- A severe weather watch or warning is forecast for any duration of the event.

Lightning

- Staff will observe radar on smartphone applications and dark threatening clouds developing overhead.
- Take shelter when lightning strikes are within 10 miles of the camping area, per the **WeatherBug Spark App**.
- Two forms of safe shelter:
 - **Safe building:** Fully enclosed with a roof, walls, and floor, and has plumbing or wiring. Examples of safe buildings include a park restroom, store, visitor center, or Headquarters' building.
 - **Safe vehicle:** Fully enclosed metal-topped vehicle such as a hard-topped car, minivan, bus, truck, etc. Do NOT leave the vehicle during a thunderstorm.
 - **Unsafe building:** An open-air structure, such as a picnic pavilion.
- Stay inside or sheltered until 30 minutes after hearing the last rumble of thunder before resuming outdoor activities.
- Water programming must be suspended until lightning is greater than 10 miles away utilizing the WeatherBug Spark App. Ensure 30 minutes has passed since hearing the last rumble of thunder or seeing lightning strike.

Partner workshops will be **offered** a cancellation if:

- Partner audience does not have onsite vehicle access for protection against lightning (i.e., bus).
- Restrooms or other indoor facilities in the camp loop do not provide adequate space for sheltering all participants projected to attend.
- Forecast for thunderstorms is 50% or greater for any duration of the event.

Name of Partner Organization

Printed Name of OLT Trained Workshop Host

Signature of OLT Trained Workshop Host

Date