

ENCOUNTER25



NOVEMBER 14-16
CAMP WILLIAMS

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ENCOUNTER25

South Texas,

Get ready for an unforgettable experience at Encounter25, where the primary focus is to foster closer connections to our Creator and a closer connection among outposts within a setting that's fun, beautiful, and laid-back. This event is all about empowering you to tailor your own adventure or choose to participate in the FCF activities, highlighting what matters most to you. While we'll come together as a collective for impactful spiritual services and morning devotions, the rest of the time is adaptable, allowing outposts to nurture relationships, learn about frontier times, hone their merits and outdoor skills, or simply unwind.

Pack up your essential cooking gear...or don't! Since so many opted for provided meals last year at Encounter, there we are once again offering that as a service to those who don't want to pack their cooking gear and shop for the groceries. Simply select the meal plan option at registration and enjoy cooked meals without the hassle. Make the most out of this remarkable "Encounter".

The Texas Independence FCF Chapter will again proudly host the annual Fall Trace, providing boys with an opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrancy, thrill, and frontier aptitude of days gone by. The Trace is open for registration to all campers, offering the chance to engage in an abundance of activities, witness captivating demonstrations, and revel in the spirit of brotherhood. Don't miss the opportunity to compete in the 3rd annual Kubb tournament and win the famous "Kubb tournament trophy". Whether you're a part of FCF or new to the scene, you're invited to be a part.

Rev. Carl Ethridge, International Ministries Missionary Kids Coordinator, will join us as our special services speaker on Friday and Saturday evening and we will take a camp-wide offering for "Sole Mission", our 2025-26 network missions focus. Let's band together as a South Texas network and raise the funds together to provide 1,000 pairs of shoes. I KNOW we can do it with God's help!

Adult campers 18 years of age and older must be listed on the "Annual Adult Approval" form submitted by their church and an unexpired photo ID to attend Encounter. *Please note that a camper is not fully registered until payment has been received either online or by check.* Registration prices are as follows:

- **Early Bird Registration** - End of day, Friday, September 19th - \$31/39 (chartered/unchartered)
- **Pre-Registration** - End of day, Friday, October 17th - \$40/\$48 (chartered/unchartered)
- **Late Registration** - After October 31st - \$49/\$57
- **Meal Plan** - \$30 – (Deadline to select meal plan option is October 31st)
- **FCF Trace Registration** - \$5 in addition to Encounter registration (open to FCF members and non-members)
- **FCF Member 2025-26 Dues** – \$20 for current FCF members (Young Bucks & Old Timers)

Register early, spread the word and we'll see you at **Encounter25!**

REV. JASON BONE

Network Royal Rangers Director

ENCOUNTER25 SCHEDULE

Friday, November 14

10:00 AM - Gates and Registration Open

10:00 AM-7:00 PM – FCF Trace Registration Open at FCF Village

11:00 AM-12:30 PM – Lunch (provided by outposts)

12:30-5:00 PM - Outpost Activity Time

3:00 PM – STXRR Store and Snack Bar Open

5:00-6:30 PM – Dinner (provided by outposts or Meal plan participants eat at FCF village)

6:30 PM – STXRR Store and Snack Bar Close

7:00 PM – Friday Evening Service

11:00PM – Lights Out

Saturday, November 15

7:00-8:30 AM – Breakfast (provided by outposts or Meal plan participants eat at FCF village)

8:45 AM – Morning Devotion

9:30 AM-12:00 PM – FCF Trace Events/Competition

9:30 AM - STXRR Store and Snack Bar Open

9:30 AM- 11:30 AM – FCF Shooting Range open (weather dependent)

12:00 PM-1:00 PM – Lunch (provided by outposts or Meal plan participants eat at FCF village)

1:00 PM-2:00 PM – FCF Trace Events/ Competition

2:00 PM – FCF Trace Events End - Turn in all Scorecards to Chapter Scribe

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Kubb Tournament

4:00 PM – FCF Trade Blanket/Auction at FCF Village

4:00 PM - STXRR Store and Snack Bar Close

5:30-7:00 PM – Dinner (provided by outposts or Meal plan participants eat at FCF village)

7:30 PM - Saturday Evening Service & **Sole Mission Offering**

9:15 PM – FCF Dessert Fellowship

11:00 PM – Lights Out

Sunday, November 16

7:00 -8:30 AM – Breakfast (provided by outposts or Meal plan participants eat at FCF village)

8:30 AM - Morning Assembly

9:30 AM – STXRR Store and Snack Bar Open at Conclusion of Morning Assembly

9:30 AM - Camp Teardown & Check Out Begins

12:00 PM – All Campsites Cleared

POLICY AND EVENT NOTES TO LEADERS

CHARTERING: Encounter is open to chartered and unchartered outposts and groups. Outposts and individuals attending Encounter who plan to charter need to do so prior to submitting their pre-registration to be eligible for applicable discounts. Charter status will be determined on the date of submission/ postmark. **NOTE:** *Chartered outposts will receive chartered discount pricing for boys and leaders up to the number of each chartered for the current charter year. Additional attendees will be charged the non-chartered price.*

PARTICIPATION AND VISITORS: Encounter has been designed for Discovery, Adventure, Expedition Rangers, and male leaders. Pastors, outpost committee members, dads, deacons, and other leaders are welcome to attend, but must be listed on the “Annual Adult Approval” form for their church. All adults 18 years of age and older that attend must be listed and approved via signature from a pastor on behalf of the leader’s church. *Visitors are required to comply with all camp rules.*

CONDUCT: There will be absolutely no tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drug use or possession tolerated at any time. The pond is off limits except when specifically permitted and supervised by an **Encounter staff member** during specified games and activities. Please make all campers aware of these guidelines. Leaders are expected to continuously monitor the behavior and location of their group. There will be State Certified Peace Officers available for any security situations that may arise. **No concealed or open carry is permitted at Encounter.** We reserve the right to ask any visitor, participant, or staff member to exit the premises for any conduct we deem unacceptable. No refunds will be issued.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE: Please do not plan to arrive at Encounter prior to 10:00 am on Friday. All outposts should plan to leave the area no later than 12:00

pm on Sunday. **All campsites are to be inspected and approved by a camp staff member before your outpost leaves the property.** We are the Lord’s stewards of Camp Williams, and we aim to treat it as such.

LEAVING DURING CAMP: Boys will not be allowed to leave the Encounter site until the conclusion of camp. In case of an emergency, please notify an Encounter staff member. Adults leaving during camp must notify security at the registration area.

PROVISIONS: Each outpost should provide its own food, water, shelter, and other necessary items or coordinate with another outpost/group to assist.

CAMPFIRES: Ground fires are allowed at outpost campsites during Encounter. This is subject to the county issuing a burn ban. If Lavaca County issues a burn ban, ground fires will be prohibited.

EXCAVATION, TREE CUTTING & CLEAN UP: **Do not cut or damage any live/standing trees, bushes, or other vegetation.** Please clean up your campsite before leaving and plan to carry out all waste at the conclusion of Encounter.

WATER: Water access is available for campers in numerous locations. Encourage your boys to bring canteens, bottles, or other portable water containers for use during the activities.

SHOWERS/RESTROOMS: Permanent restrooms are available near the FCF Village. Shower stalls are to be occupied by no more than one person at a time and have a requested limit of 5 minutes to allow for everyone to use. Please ensure that all facilities are kept clean and proper behavior is always exhibited near the restrooms.

DRESS: Boys and leaders are encouraged to wear their outpost’s uniform at morning assemblies. During meals and activities, T-Shirts (Ranger shirts preferable) and jeans or long pants are preferred. Since weather in South

Texas is ever changing, prepare boys for a mix warm, wet, and cool weather.

ASSEMBLY ATTENDANCE: Attendance at evening council fire services and morning devotions is mandatory. All adults should attend camp-wide services with their boys. During all services and camp devotion times, there is no need to keep a leader at the campsite as security will be on patrol. The main purpose of Encounter is the spiritual emphasis that takes place during the evening services and throughout the event between the boys and leaders. Making sure you and your boys are at the evening service will ensure the Holy Spirit can move in each life. What a privilege!

FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS: We do not permit individuals to bring firearms including but not limited to concealed handguns, ammunition, or fireworks to Encounter for any reason. There are two exceptions to this rule: 1) The designated State Certified Police Officer who is head of Encounter security. 2) FCF Members displaying firearms at the FCF Village and/or firearms to be used by FCF members with a current black powder shooter's card as part of an approved FCF Trace activity.

TOOLS & ELECTRONICS: Only hand tools should be used to prepare your campsite. Mowers and all other power tools are prohibited for safety reasons. **Electronic devices will be allowed.** We would ask that leaders encourage their boys to use their phones and other devices to share their experience via social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as appropriate. We ask that leaders assist in ensuring devices are not used for entertainment purposes such as gaming/movie watching or during inappropriate times such as altar services, devotions or after "lights out"/inside of tents, etc. Leaders must be aware that devices can be used to access inappropriate content and limit access as needed.

VEHICLES: Vehicles and all trailers are not to be left in the camping area for any reason. **After arriving, you have a maximum of two (2) hours to remove all vehicles**

and trailers and park them only in the designated parking area. Security will enforce the time limits and parking locations. No vehicles are to be driven during the camp (for safety reasons). Exceptions include designated emergency and staff vehicles. Any other exceptions **must be approved** by the network director and designated vehicles must display a staff placard on the dash.

OUTPOST ACTIVITIES & CAMPSITES: Outposts are encouraged to camp by age group (Discovery, Adventure and Expedition Rangers) within the outpost campsite and promote the patrol system as much as possible. All outpost activities must be held in accordance with established Camp Williams policies. If you have questions about whether an outpost activity is suitable for Encounter, please email Ryan Gabbard at ryan@stxroyalrangers.com. Our goal is to provide groups an opportunity to leverage Camp Williams for fellowship, spiritual growth and advancement while maintaining a safe and clean camp that everyone can enjoy.

OUTPOST CAMPSITE IMPROVEMENT: During Encounter, seasoned campers will be available upon request to look at outpost campsites and offer suggestions and information for future improvement.

FCF TRACE COMPETITION: This year, we will hold our annual fall competitions. Non-FCF members are invited to compete if they and register for the Trace. Competitions include (but not limited to): knife and hawk throwing, black powder rifle, outfit judging, flint and steel, horn blowing, frontier archery, trade evaluation, and storytelling/stump preaching. Points will be awarded for each event that can then be used for the evening auction. **All Old-timers and Wilderness members are expected to bring either a trade item or auction item for the event.**

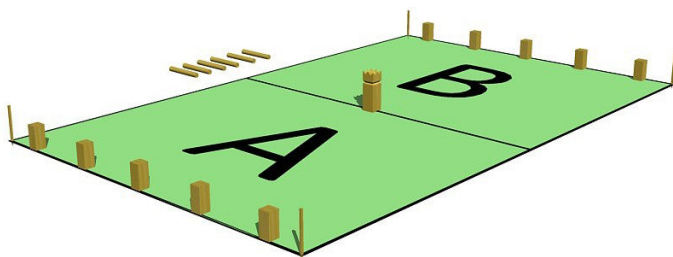
FCF PARTICIPATION: All boys, leaders, and parents are welcome to participate in FCF events and activities if they have paid the FCF participation fee during registration. Registered FCF Trace participants will be given a specially colored wristband upon check in. FCF

members are encouraged to pay their 2025-26 Chapter dues when registering for Fall Trace.

AUCTION/TRADE BLANKET: We will again host a Trade Blanket this year on Saturday evening for those interested. Bring some of your plunder or workmanship to trade and enjoy the unique fellowship during the trade blanket time! Saturday evening, we will hold an auction for those who participate in the competition.

BLACK POWDER SHOOTING: To accommodate those who wish to participate in black powder, a sign-up sheet will be available at registration. Black powder shooting will be supervised by an official NRA/NMLRA Range officer. Old Timers and Young Bucks shooting black powder rifle must have an approved "Black Powder Shooter's Card" or NRA/NMLRA certification. Handguns/black powder pistols are not allowed at any Royal Rangers or FCF event.

KUBB TOURNAMENT AND TROPHY: To those who wish to participate in the Kubb tournament, a sign-up sheet will be available at the FCF village. This is open for anyone to participate in the tournament, your team must sign-up prior to the tournament starting at 2:00 PM on Saturday. Each team is comprised of no less than 2 players and not more than 6 players. Preferably the team members on a team are comprised of individuals from the same Outpost. The Team/Outpost that wins the overall tournament will receive a traveling trophy to be kept for one year on display by the Outpost. There is only one trophy, if the winning team is comprised of individuals from the different Outpost, they will share the one trophy.



KUBB TOURNAMENT RULES

SPIRIT OF THE GAME

KUBB stresses sportsmanship and fair play. Competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of respect between players, basic joy of play and adherence to the rules. KUBB is a non-contact and self-officiating game. Players are responsible for their own play calls.

Due to time constraints FCF Staff may call a winning team after 15 minutes of game play to allow all teams to compete within the allotted time on schedule.

Players resolve their own disputes. Remember, as Rangers, we are:

- HONEST - We do not lie, cheat, or steal, and we are
- COURTEOUS - We are polite, kind, and thoughtful.

SETUP

Kubb is typically played on a rectangular play field approximately 16' x 26' (8m x 5m). Baseline KUBB blocks are set up evenly between the corner stakes with the king in the middle of the play field. The play field is split up into halves, each team with their respective fields. Each team tosses one dowel. Whoever gets their dowel closest to the king without touching it, goes first.

OBJECTIVE

The object of the game is to knock all your opponent's KUBB blocks over, using the dowels. The dowels MUST be tossed underhand, end-over-end, no helicopter toss, no overhand toss. To win, a team must knock all their opponent's KUBB blocks over and successively knock over the king. However, if the king is knocked over any time during play, that team loses.

