



Here's what one parent said about RYLA:

My daughter Taylor attended your conference. Her first comment to me as she got off the bus was, "That was the greatest experience of my life." Needless to say, I was taken aback for a moment. She mentioned to me that she had never had opportunities to reflect on the past/present while systematically and purposefully planning for the future. She absolutely loved this retreat. I just wanted to send a quick note to say "Thank you" to you, your staff, and your organization for creating such a meaningful, insightful, and focused youth leadership experience. -- Best regards, Mr. John Gray, Principal, Jo Nelson Middle School

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Congratulations! Your student has been selected to be a Trailblazer for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Camp. As a Trailblazer, your student will experience an extended RYLA Camp experience on **February 1-4, 2018**. Trailblazers were selected from last year's campers to continue their leadership training through a 4-day camp. Camp tuition for Trailblazers is \$300. RYLA is the premier weekend intensive leadership training retreat for area youth to enhance their leadership skills, citizenship and personal growth. It is held at the beautiful Camp Zephyr on Lake Corpus Christi. For a quick view of the RYLA experience, check out the video clips of the camp at this site:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Zkst1HDs8uo

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU:

1. Confirm your child is willing and able to participate as a RYLA Trailblazer.
 - Will your child be free of other commitments from 10 am on Thursday, February 1 through 4pm or 5 pm on Sunday, February 4, 2018? No sports, no theatre, no testing, no UIL competition, no family events, no church events, no school functions. Please check the calendars. This is an intense long-weekend and Trailblazers are integral to the program. No late arrivals or early releases are allowed. A letter requesting an excused absence from school will be provided by the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi if it is needed.
 - Will your child participate and take a leadership role in a dynamic, fast-paced, interactive camp with 150 high school sophomores & juniors from South Texas?
 - Will you or your child be able to provide transportation to and from the camp?
 - Will your child complete the online "Strength Finders" survey by January 8, 2018? Once camp tuition payment is received, a link to the survey will be sent.
2. Complete and sign all the forms for registration and permissions. A list of the forms is found below. **Return these forms and payment no later than December 15, 2017** to The Rotary Club of Corpus Christi, 921 N. Chaparral, Ste. 210, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401. Fax: 361-888-5579, Phone: 361-882-8672, Email: rotarycc@swbell.net.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL EXPERIENCE:

1. Fun and challenging leadership skill building activities
2. Learning to facilitate RYLA activities
3. Interaction with local and regional business leaders who will lead sessions and demonstrate leadership skills
4. Meeting over 200, sophomores, juniors, senior and college students from South Texas schools (Victoria, Corpus Christi, Laredo, Rio Grande Valley)
5. New insights, friends, and leadership development that will impact the rest of their lives.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. A list of items to bring to camp is included with the packet; also a map showing Camp Zephyr. Students sleep in same-sex dorms with College age Counselors in the dorms.
2. Trailblazers travel to camp on the morning of Thursday, February 1 and should arrive no later than 10 am. They will depart camp on Sunday, February 4 around 4 to 5 pm.
3. Transportation to and from Camp is your responsibility. Your student will get contact information for other Counselors and Trailblazers should they want to carpool.
4. Trailblazers are not allowed use of cell phones during the weekend, so do not expect your student to call. We will contact you in the event of an emergency.

INFORMATION included in parent packet:

1. Letter to Parent explaining RYLA Trailblazer program
2. RYLA Mission Statement and Objectives
3. Frequently Asked Questions
4. Map to Camp Zephyr
5. Map of Camp Zephyr
6. What to Bring to Camp

FORMS to COMPLETED and SIGNED by both STUDENT and PARENTS and returned to The Rotary Club of Corpus Christi no later than December 18, 2016. (Forms are included in Trailblazer packet).

1. Trailblazer application
2. Leadership commitment forms (student only)
3. Consent, Waiver, and Medial Release form
4. Sexual Abuse Response Policy and Procedures form
5. Photography/Story Release form

Information and a copy of all these forms may be found at

<http://www.rotarycc.com/youth-service/ryla/ryla-registration-forms/>

We are very excited about the opportunity to bring this leadership training to your child.

Sincerely,

Mary C. McQueen, RYLA Program and Counselor Training Chair

mmcqueen2@delmar.edu

361-698-1217 (office)

361-815-1157 (cell)

Frequently Asked Questions: Trailblazers

Deadlines forms and payments need to be received by the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi

Registration Deadlines/Expenses

Description	Due Date	Amount
Completed Forms & Payment Received	December 15, 2017	\$300
Late Payment Received	After Jan. 8, 2018	Trailblazer dropped from program

Cancellations/fee refunds

Deadlines to Notify the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi	
By January 8, 2018	100 % refund
After January 8, 2018	No refund

Where do I send the forms and the fees?

- Make Checks payable to the “Rotary Club of Corpus Christi”
- Forms are available on the Rotary Club web site, www.rotarycc.com. Look for the RYLA tab under Youth Services.
- Mail Checks and/or forms to the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi, 921 N. Chaparral, Suite 210, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401; credit cards can be accepted. Call 361-882-8672.
- Forms can be scanned and emailed to rotarycc@swbell.net or faxed to 361.888.5579

What are Camp Arrival and Departure Times?

- Trailblazers are to arrive at Camp Zephyr between 9:30 and 10:00 am on Thursday, February 1, 2018.
- Trailblazers will depart Camp Zephyr between 4-5 pm Sunday, February 4, 2018.
- No late arrivals or early departures are authorized. If Trailblazers are unable to attend within the scheduled hours, an alternate will be selected.

What are the Transportation Arrangements?

- Trailblazers are responsible for providing their transportation to and from Camp. RYLA Camp staff contact information will be provided by January 16, 2018 so you can contact and arrange for carpooling with other Counselors or Trailblazers should you desire.
- There will be a RYLA sign at Camp Zephyr for the drop off & pick up location.

Who do I notify of changes, ask questions?

- Mary McQueen, RYLA Program Chair, Rotary Club of Corpus Christi
- mmcqueen2@delmar.edu, Office: 361-698-1317, Cell: 361-815-1157

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

MISSION

RYLA – “ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS” is a program designed to shape leadership skills in High School Sophomore and Junior Students who already possess and demonstrate outstanding leadership characteristics in their high school and community. RYLA Camp is a youth retreat with the main objective being to expose students to the many phases of leadership by learning from individuals who are already leaders in their community and businesses. Students attending the RYLA camp should leave the seminar with a better understanding of how to assume a positive leadership role in their school and community.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program are:

1. To encourage and assist selected youth leaders and potential leaders in methods of responsible and effective voluntary youth leadership by providing them with a training experience.
2. To encourage continued and stronger leadership of youth by youth.
3. To publicly recognize the high qualities of many young people who are rendering service to their communities as youth leaders.
4. To further demonstrate Rotary’s respect and concerns for youth.

What to bring to Camp RYLA

As a Counselor or Trailblazer, transportation to RYLA will be your responsibility. If you plan to drive, carpooling to Camp is encouraged. After registration for staff is complete, you will be provided with a RYLA Staff Roster for potential contact to carpool. Campers, Trailblazers and Counselors are not allowed to leave RYLA at any time during the weekend. **RYLA will close between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon for Counselor and Trailblazers. If someone else is picking you up, please let them know the appropriate time.**

Please bring the following:

- Sleeping bag, sheets, blanket
- Pillow
- Toiletries – toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc
- Shower shoes (if desired)
- Bath and hand towels
- Comfortable clothes --Jeans and T-shirts recommended
- **NO INAPPROPRIATE DESIGNS OR SLOGANS ALLOWED**
- One RYLA T-shirt will be provided (give size on application form)
- Sneakers or comfortable shoes.
- Jacket and/or raincoat (be prepared for cool evenings and possibly rain)
- Flashlight (remember to include fresh batteries)
- Personal medication (must be clearly marked)
- Personal hygiene items

The following items are **NOT** allowed and may be confiscated for the duration of the camp.

- **NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS**
- **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**
- **NO ELECTRONIC GAMES**

- **CAMPERS AND TRAILBLAZERS ARE NOT ALLOWED CELL PHONES – (NOTE: Counselors are allowed to have their phones so we can contact you if needed or you can contact us in cases of emergencies. However, you cannot use the phones in sight of the campers.)**

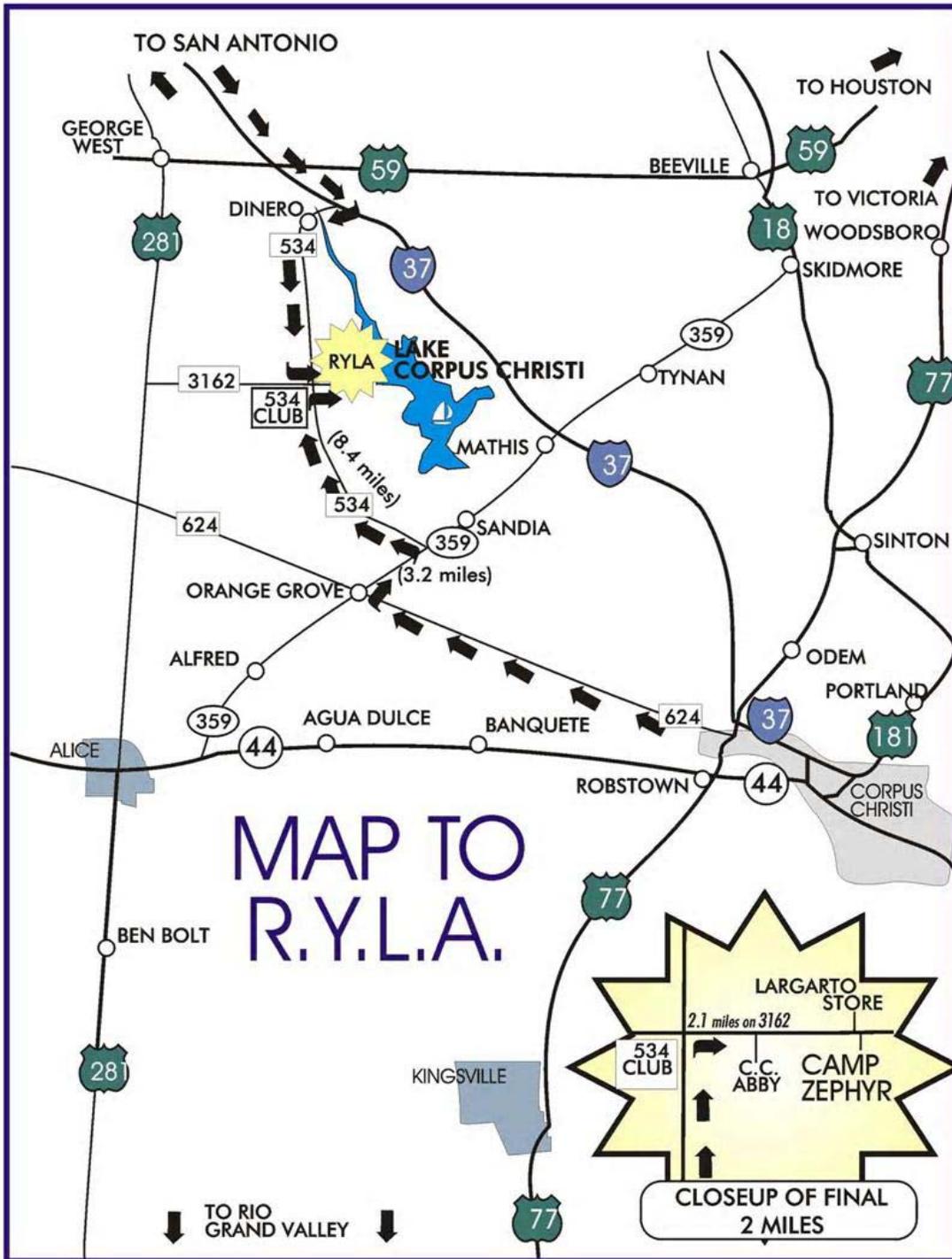
Emergency Telephone Calls only: (361) 688-1987 (Jim Villaume) or 361-547-2448 (Camp Zephyr)

Counselor Trainer: Mary McQueen, 361-815-1157

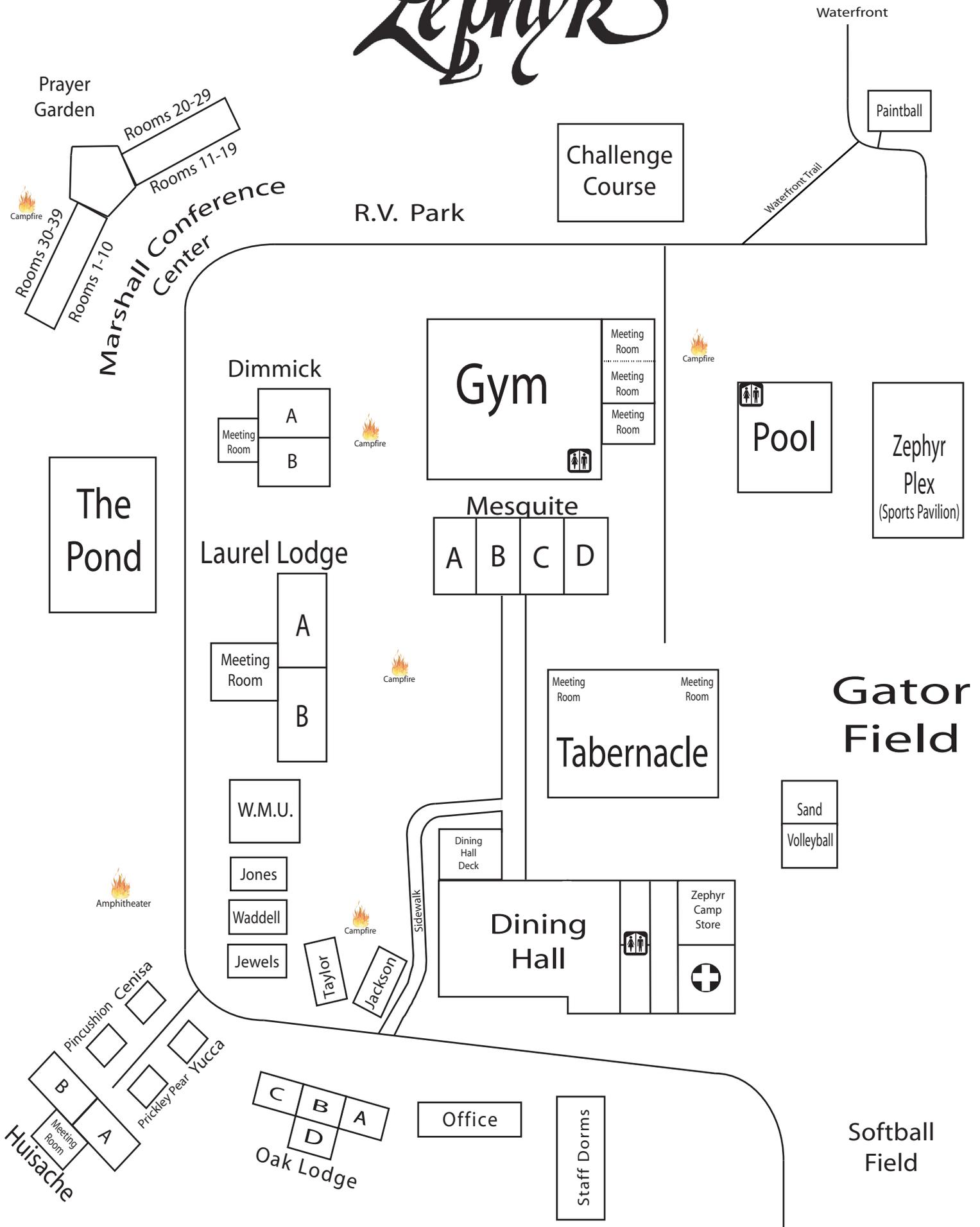
Emergency personnel will be at the camp all weekend

Rotary Club Website: www.rotarycc.com

Camp Zephyr Address: 151 FM 3162, Sandia, TX 78383



Zephyr



Directions to RYLA at Camp Zephyr

FROM CORPUS CHRISTI AREA

Take Interstate 37 to Calallen
Take Highway 77 South to the Northwest Blvd intersection (FM 624)
Exit right on FM 624 going west toward Orange Grove
Continue on FM 624 to Orange Grove, turn right on FM 359 (toward Sandia)
Continue on FM 359 for 3.2 miles to FM 534
Exit onto FM 534 (it will be on your left)
Proceed 8.4 miles on FM 534 to FM 3162 (it will be on your right)
Turn right on FM 3162 and proceed for 2.1 miles to Camp Zephyr
Turn right into Camp Zephyr

FROM RIO GRANDE VALLEY AREA

Take Highway 77 North through Robstown to Calallen.
Exit right for the Northwest Blvd intersection (FM 624)
Turn left on Northwest Blvd (FM 624) going west toward Orange Grove
Continue on FM 624 to Orange Grove, turn right on FM 359 (toward Sandia)
Continue on FM 359 for 3.2 miles to FM 534
Exit onto FM 534 (it will be on your left)
Proceed 8.4 miles on FM 534 to FM 3162 (it will be on your right)
Turn right on FM 3162 and proceed for 2.1 miles to Camp Zephyr
Turn right into Camp Zephyr

FROM LAREDO AREA

Take Highway 59 East to Freer
Take Highway 44 East through San Diego to Alice
Stay on Highway 44/FM 359 through Alice
Once through Alice, look for the FM 359 cutoff
Take the FM 359 cutoff toward Orange Grove
Continue on FM 369 through Orange Grove
Continue on FM 359 for 3.2 miles past Orange Grove to FM 534
Exit onto FM 534 (it will be on your left)
Proceed 8.4 miles on FM 534 to FM 3162 (it will be on your right)
Turn right on FM 3162 and proceed for 2.1 miles to Camp Zephyr
Turn right into Camp Zephyr

FROM AREAS NORTH or EAST of CORPUS CHRISTI

Take most appropriate route to Mathis
From Interstate 37, take the FM 359 exit and proceed on FM 359 through Mathis to Sandia
Once through Sandia, continue on FM 359 for 3 miles to FM 534
Exit onto FM 534 (it will be on your right)
Proceed 8.4 miles on FM 534 to FM 3162 (it will be on your right)
Turn right on FM 3162 and proceed for 2.1 miles to Camp Zephyr
Turn right into Camp Zephyr