

Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation

Wildlife Research and Education

P. O. Box 1400 ♦ Sinton, Texas 78387-1400

Phone (361) 364-2643

www.welderwildlife.org

TRUSTEES

John J. Welder, V
H. C. Weil
Joel Thomas

ADVISORY TRUSTEES

Harvey C. Weil, Jr.
John J. Welder VI
D. Lynn Drawe, Ph.D.
Fidel Hernandez, Ph.D.

STAFF

J. Dale James, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Angie Arredondo
Manager-Education, Outreach, &
Curation
Angela Range
Administrative Office Manager
Ty Higginbotham
Land Stewardship and Facilities
Manager

Dear Foundation Guest:

Thank you for your interest in the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation's education program. We offer structured, staff-guided, science-based programs on conservation, ecology, and managed use of south Texas wildlife resources. Programs range in length from half-day to 2 days of classroom and field activities. In addition, we offer 2 educational nature/hiking trails. Please see our guidelines for additional information regarding rates, times, trails, and program options.

It is important that you carefully review the NEWLY REVISED guidelines and discuss them with your group before your visit. We reserve the right to remove you from our schedule and replace your group if confirmation is not received within

2-3 weeks prior to your visit.

Each member of your group must complete:

- (1) a waiver of liability (page 8 of this packet), and
- (2) a photo release waiver (page 9 of this packet).

IMPORTANT: BOTH waivers must be signed by a parent or guardian if the individuals are under 18 years of age. Please duplicate both waivers and distribute to members of your group prior to your trip. Waivers and payment of any fees are due/required upon arrival at the Foundation.

We look forward to working with your group and hope your visit to the Welder Wildlife Foundation is educational, safe, and enjoyable.

Sincerely,



Angie Arredondo, M.Sc
Manager of Education, Outreach, and Curation



WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Research | Conservation | Education

WELDER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

DAY & OVERNIGHT VISITS

Facilities use priority is given to groups who have a professional interest in natural resource conservation. Such groups will be accommodated in preference to all others.

The Welder Foundation staff provides educational experiences in conservation through lectures, workshops, symposia, and field exercises for all groups visiting the Foundation.

Sponsors are responsible for the conduct of their students. Please help us provide a safe, positive, fun learning experience for your group by discussing rules and guidelines in advance and enforcing proper behavior while at the refuge.

GROUP SIZE:

- A minimum of 10 individuals is required to schedule group visits.
- A maximum of 36 students and sponsors combined is allowed for overnight visits.
- **Sponsors are required to stay in the Bunkhouse with students at all times.**
- We require that you have a minimum of one adult sponsor for every 10 students.
- Co-ed groups should have both male and female sponsors if staying overnight.
- Only required sponsors/chaperones (1 adult for every 10 students is required) are permitted on the premise. We recommend bringing 1 or 2 extra adults to assist with supervision.

FACILITIES CARE AND GUIDELINES:

PLEASE LEAVE ALL FACILITIES IN THE CONDITION IN WHICH THEY WERE FOUND. IF ANY DAMAGES ARE INCURRED DURING YOUR STAY, YOUR GROUP WILL BE BILLED FOR THE NECESSARY REPAIRS.

- The Rotunda, a screened building with a kitchen, contains 2 refrigerators, range, ice machine, cook stove, cooking utensils, and eating utensils. All dishes, pots, and pans must be washed and put away. All food and leftovers should be removed from the refrigerators, and any spills wiped out with damp, soapy cloth. The floors should be swept and trash should be tied up in plastic bags and taken to the dumpsters located in the front of the main building. Benches and tables should be wiped down and returned to their original positions. All door and windows should be closed and lights turned off at departure. Day groups need to bring sack lunches and drinks (bus drivers included). **NO FOOD SERVICES OR VENDING MACHINES ARE AVAILABLE.** Overnight groups must furnish their own food and drinks.
- There are 36 beds in the Bunkhouse. One room sleeps 18 females, and one room sleeps 18 males. The floors should be swept and trash should be tied up in plastic bags and taken to the dumpsters located in the front of the main building. Benches and tables should be wiped down and returned to their original positions. All door and windows should be closed and lights turned off at departure.
- Individuals should bring bedrolls or sheets and blankets, pillows, towels, and toiletries.
- Bathing facilities are available both in Bunkhouse and Bathhouse (2 showers per gender in each facility). The floors should be swept and trash should be tied up in plastic bags and taken to the dumpsters located in the front of the main building.
- Cleaning supplies (brooms, paper towels, trash bags) are found in the Rotunda or Bunkhouse. Please return all cleaning supplies to where you found them .
- Please help us conserve energy by **TURNING OFF ALL LIGHTS WHEN NOT IN USE AND DO NOT TAMPER WITH OR ADJUST AIR CONDITIONER THERMOSTATS.** Please ask the staff to adjust the thermostats if needed.
- We have 2 educational nature/hiking trails that may be used when time and weather permit (see guidelines).

GUIDELINES:

- Our gates are locked at all times, so groups must specify an **EXACT** arrival time and **CALL** the refuge (361-364-2643) prior to arrival or if delayed. **NO PHONE IS AVAILABLE AT THE GATE.**
- **NO ALCOHOL** is allowed with any college or school groups. Adult groups who wish to have alcohol on the premises **MUST** obtain permission from one of the WWF Directors prior to your visit.
- On overnight visits, **ALL SPONSORS** are required to stay in the Bunkhouse with their group.
- No specimens/remains of plants or animals may be taken off the refuge without permission from WWF Directors.
- Groups must always be accompanied on the refuge by a Welder **STAFF** member and by their sponsors.
- The Rotunda is located adjacent to the Graduate Student Dormitory. Dormitory residents and research scientists have projects that may require them to be working very late or early hours; therefore, it is imperative that your students are **QUIET** by **NO LATER THAN 11:00 P.M.**
- All students are expected to participate in our programs. All electronic devinces should be turned off/ stored at all times during our programs. We expect sponsors to ensure proper participation and behaviour.
- Proper clothing is essential and includes long pants and sturdy, closed-toed shoes. If your group will be participating in any aquatic studies or kayaking, students should have shoes for wading and a change of clothes. If possible, we recommend that each student bring a pair of **BINOCULARS.**
- Sponsors should plan activities for times when a WWF staff member is not with your group or during down times following meals, etc.
- In addition to classroom and field activities, we offer two educational hiking trails. The Nature Trail behind the Bunkhouse takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The River Walk takes approximately 1½ - 2 hours to complete. **Please DO NOT stray from the designated trails.** A Welder staff member is required to be with groups at all times while they are exploring the refuge.
- Sponsors should encourage their students to bring a small notebook to keep a journal of all plants and animals they see or hear, activities in which they participate, and things that occur while they are here. This reinforces their experiences at the Welder Wildlife Foundation.

Facilities & Use Fees

2025



PRICING

Fee rates at the Welder Wildlife Foundation assist with expenses related to usage and help offset costs for nonprofit and school programming, including those groups that may have financial barriers to access.

FACILITIES

Bunkhouse

The Bunkhouse holds up to 36 individuals, bunkhouse-style - men on one side and women on the other. The common living area has tables, chairs and couches with central heating and air conditioning. Bed and bath linens (sheets, blankets, towels) are only provided upon request, and an additional fee (see below) will be charged. Guests normally bring their own bed and bath linens. Overnight stay in the Bunkhouse includes use of the Rotunda for cooking and eating. There is no wi-fi access in the bunkhouse.

Dormitory

The dormitory is comprised of 8 rooms with private showers/restrooms. Rooms 1-6 sleeps 2 (two twin size beds) and rooms 7 and 8 sleep 3 (single twin bed and bunkbed). The dormitory has a community kitchen and living space, laundry accommodation, and a screened outdoor patio area. Welder Fellows and visiting researchers will have priority so please inquire about availability. No children are allowed in the dormitory.

Rotunda

The Rotunda is a screened open-air facility used for meals and social gatherings that can accommodate approximately 50 people. This space is equipped with a full kitchen including refrigerators for food storage.

Bathhouse

The Bathhouse is just a short walk from the bunkhouse, and it provides additional restrooms and showers to accommodate larger groups.

Education Center

The Education Center can seat up to 35 students in a classroom style setting. The Center is equipped with a projector, projector screen, and large dry-erase board. It also has a small kitchen area, and restrooms. This space is ideal for a professional group meeting space and workshops.

Overnight Use Rates

Overnight use comes with access to assigned overnight facilities, rotunda, bathhouse, outdoor trails, and conservation education programming. Check-in will be at 3pm and check-out by noon on the day of departure. However, we will work with you to utilize space and the times that best accommodate your group. Individuals are required to bring their own toiletries, and it is recommended that guests bring their own linens. However, linens may be provided at additional cost*.

Bunkhouse

Group minimum is \$300 (twenty persons) regardless of group size

K-12th Grade School Groups

\$15.00/person/night

College/University Natural Resource Groups

\$35.00/ person/night

Conservation Professionals/ Groups (researchers, science teachers, conservation agency/nonprofits)

\$65.00/person/night

Dormitory

\$80.00/person/night

**Bed and Bath Linen Fees (if requested) : Additional fee per stay*

Dormitory- \$10/per room

Bunkhouse- \$10/per 2 beds

Day Use Rates

Access for up to 8 hours to include use of Rotunda, bathhouse restrooms and outdoor trails with conservation education programming.

K-12th Grade School Groups

Free

College/University Natural Resource Groups

Free

Conservation Professionals/ Groups (researchers, science teachers, conservation agency/nonprofits) *\$10.00/person*

Non-Conservation Groups (minimum \$200.00/group)

\$20.00/person

Education Center

The education center is reservation only with a current day use rate of \$150 per day.
Please call 361-364-2643 to reserve.

Meal Rates

We can arrange catered meals during your stay and will plan menus to fit your needs and work with dietary restrictions if needed.

Meal cost minimum is 10 people (\$750 for Overnight or \$250 for Day Use) regardless of group size.

Ages 10 & Up

Breakfast: \$20 per person
Lunch: \$25 per person
Dinner: \$30 per person
Snacks: \$10 per person

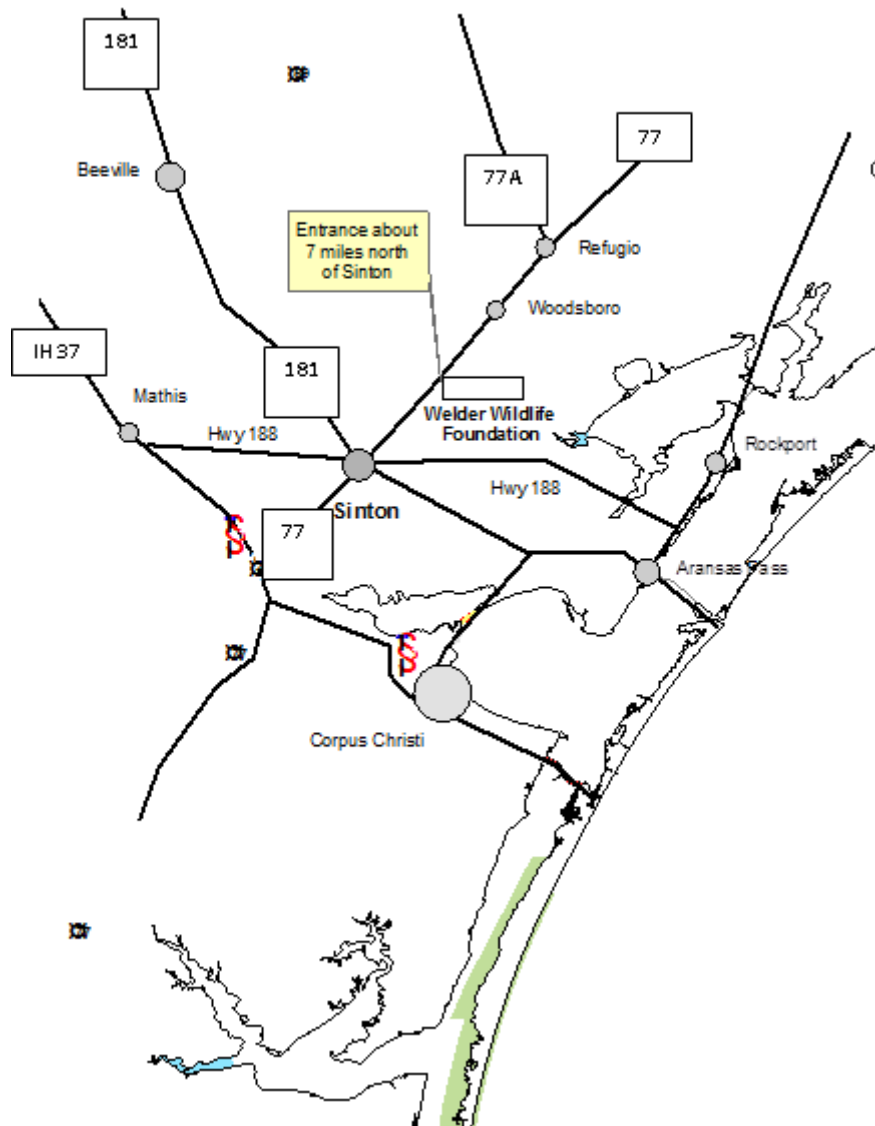
Children (Ages 5-10)

\$15 per child per meal

DIRECTIONS TO THE WELDER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Take Hwy 77 N. from Sinton towards Woodsboro/Victoria. Approximately 8 miles north of Sinton there will be a brown highway sign announcing the Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation. Exit immediately following the sign and you will see the Foundation's gate house (white stucco with red tile roof) which is located on the east side of the highway. (If you cross the Aransas River Bridge you have traveled approximately 1.5 miles too far.) The headquarters is located 2 miles from the main gate at the highway. Do not exit off the main road. Phone number: 361-364-2643

Our physical address will take you to the main gate of the Refuge. After you reach the gate please follow the directions above. Physical address: 10429 Welder Wildlife, HWY 77, Sinton, TX 78387.



**WELDER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION NOTICE AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY
FOR ENTRY UPON PREMISES AND TRAVEL IN VEHICLES**

RECREATIONAL USE

(Place a check in the box if applies)

☐ I hereby acknowledge that I am being granted permission, free of charge, to enter lands owned or leased (herein referred to as "premises") by the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation (herein called "The Foundation") for **PURPOSES OF RECREATION**. Recreation as used herein means activity as defined in Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code § 75.001 including but not limited to: hunting; fishing; swimming; boating; camping; picnicking; hiking; pleasure driving; nature study, including bird-watching; cave exploration; waterskiing or other water sports; or any other activity associated with enjoying nature or the outdoors.

NOTICE

I hereby acknowledge that **NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL DANGEROUS CONDITIONS EXIST** on the premises including the presence of harmful or poisonous snakes, insects, spiders, low hanging trees or branches, eroded conditions of the land, wild and domestic animals, deep water, mud, sand, sink holes, oil and natural gas wells, firearms, animal traps, vehicles, furniture including double-decked bunk beds, and slippery walking or driving surfaces. In addition, I hereby acknowledge that other naturally occurring dangerous conditions may exist on the premises as well as artificially occurring dangerous conditions germane to activities on the premises.

I also hereby acknowledge that my activities at The Foundation may include travel on or off the premises in vehicles owned and/or operated by The Foundation its trustees, representatives, employees, directors and agents, and that travel on and off roadways or senderos may be rough and dangerous.

RELEASE

In consideration of my entry on to the premises, I hereby **WAIVE, RELEASE AND DISCHARGE** any and all claims for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators I have or which may develop against the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and its trustees, representatives, employees, directors and agents, whether now known or not, for damages or other injury arising out of my entry on to the premises of The Foundation or travel in vehicles owned or operated by The Foundation. It is **MY INTENT TO WAIVE, RELEASE AND DISCHARGE** the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and their trustees, representatives, employees, directors and agents **FROM ANY DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE** of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and its trustees, representatives, employees, directors and agents. I hereby expressly assume all risk associated with my presence on the premises.

I hereby acknowledge that if any parts of this Notice and Release of Liability are determined to be unenforceable in law, that remaining parts of this Notice and Release of Liability shall remain in effect.

Date: _____

**IF PARTICIPANT IS A MINOR
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR
GUARDIAN IS REQUIRED:**

Signature

Name of Minor: _____

Printed Name

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian

**WELDER WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
PHOTO RELEASE**

PHOTO RELEASE FOR MINORS

Student's name _____

I, _____, parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____ (student name),

☐ do ☐ do not give (please check one) the Welder Wildlife Foundation and their legal representatives and assigns, the right and permission to publish, without charge, photographs taken during education programs or sponsored events by the Welder Wildlife Foundation.

These photographs may be used in publications, including electronic publications, or in audiovisual presentations, promotional literature, program advertising, or in other similar ways.

I/We hereby warrant that I/we are over eighteen (18) years of age and are competent to contract in our own names.

Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

PHOTO RELEASE FOR NON- MINORS

Individual's name _____

I, _____, hereby

☐ do ☐ do not give (please check one) the Welder Wildlife Foundation and their legal representatives and assigns, the right and permission to publish, without charge, photographs taken during education programs or sponsored events by the Welder Wildlife Foundation.

These photographs may be used in publications, including electronic publications, or in audiovisual presentations, promotional literature, program advertising, or in other similar ways.

I hereby warrant that I am over eighteen (18) years of age and am competent to contract in my own name.

Name (printed): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Day Group Packing List

NECESSITIES

- ☐ **WATER BOTTLE!** – Every member of the group must carry a water bottle with them at all times!
- ☐ **COMFORTABLE, CASUAL CLOTHING** – We may be walking through grass and brush, so thorns, mosquitoes, and chiggers will be in abundance! Shorts (of appropriate length) will be appropriate for some activities, but you may be in the field much of the time and you will need long pants for field activities.
- ☐ **DURABLE, COMFORTABLE SHOES** (for wet and dry situations) – We will be doing LOTS of walking. Close-toed shoes (boots/old tennis shoes) are required for activities. If participating in aquatic activities you need an extra pair of closed-toed shoes (old tennis shoes/water shoes/keens)
- ☐ **FIRST AID KIT**
- ☐ **HAT/CAP, SUNGLASSES, AND SUNSCREEN**
- ☐ **INSECT REPELLANT AND AFTER-BITE CREAM**
- ☐ **DAYPACK OR BACKPACK** – For carrying water bottles, journals and other items you will use in the field.
- ☐ **FOOD AND DRINKS** – Meals will not be prepared for the group. Groups must prepare their own meals. A kitchen is available for use. Vending machines are not available.
- ☐ **KITCHEN PAPER GOODS** – Paper plates, cups, utensils, and paper towels will not be supplied for groups. Please bring these items if required by your group.
- ☐ **RAIN GEAR**

OPTIONAL

- ☐ **BINOCULARS**
- ☐ **FIELD GUIDES OR TEXTS** – If you have any available, they will help in the field. If you do not have any, there will be some to share (examples: birds, mammals, plants, insects, etc.)
- ☐ **OLD CLOTHING AND TOWEL FOR THE AQUATIC ACTIVITIES** – This is only if we have you scheduled for wetland/riparian activities
- ☐ **CAMERA**
- ☐ **BANDANA** – You may want to soak in water and wrap around the back of your neck to cool you off in the heat.

Overnight Group Packing List

NECESSITIES

- ☐ **WATER BOTTLE!** – Every member of the group must carry a water bottle with them at all times!
- ☐ **COMFORTABLE, CASUAL CLOTHING** – We may be walking through grass and brush, so thorns, mosquitoes, and chiggers will be in abundance! Shorts (of appropriate length) will be appropriate for some activities, but you may be in the field much of the time and you will need long pants for field activities.
- ☐ **DURABLE, COMFORTABLE SHOES** (for wet and dry situations) – We will be doing LOTS of walking. Close-toed shoes (boots/old tennis shoes) are required for activities. If participating in aquatic activities you need an extra pair of closed-toed shoes (old tennis shoes/water shoes/keens)
- ☐ **BEDDING** – You will need a pillow and sheet set (or sleeping bag). The bedrooms are air-conditioned and will get cool at night, so you might want to bring something warm in which to sleep.
- ☐ **TOILETRIES** – You will need to bring your own towels, soap, shampoo, etc.
- ☐ **FIRST AID KIT**
- ☐ **HAT/CAP, SUNGLASSES, AND SUNSCREEN**
- ☐ **INSECT REPELLANT AND AFTER-BITE CREAM**
- ☐ **DAYPACK OR BACKPACK** – For carrying water bottles, journals and other items you will use in the field.
- ☐ **FOOD AND DRINKS** – Meals will not be prepared for the group. Groups must prepare their own meals. A kitchen is available for use. Vending machines are not available.
- ☐ **KITCHEN PAPER GOODS** – Paper plates, cups, utensils, and paper towels will not be supplied for groups. Please bring these items if required by your group.
- ☐ **FLASHLIGHT** (with new/extra batteries)
- ☐ **RAIN GEAR**

OPTIONAL

- ☐ **BINOCULARS**
- ☐ **FIELD GUIDES OR TEXTS** – If you have any available, they will help in the field. If you do not have any, there will be some to share (examples: birds, mammals, plants, insects, etc.)
- ☐ **OLD CLOTHING AND TOWEL FOR THE AQUATIC ACTIVITIES** – This is only if we have you scheduled for wetland/riparian activities
- ☐ **CAMERA**
- ☐ **ALARM CLOCK**
- ☐ **CAMPSTOOL OR CHAIR**
- ☐ **BANDANA** – You may want to soak in water and wrap around the back of your neck to cool you off in the heat.

WWF MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

E.M.S. AMBULANCE:



Dial 911- Our 911 address is 10429 Welder Wildlife (Hwy 77 N)

****Please note: This address takes you to WWF Main Gate on Hwy 77 N**

REFUGE CONTACTS:

In case of emergency during working hours contact the main office at (361) 364-2643. After hours and weekends, contact one of the following:

Dale James	cell: (361) 587-1959
Angie Arredondo	cell: (361) 455-3414
Angela Garcia	cell: (361) 424-4175
Ty Higginbotham	cell: (936) 827-0555

*There are phones located in the classroom, study, and main office.

MINOR EMERGENCIES: First-Aid Kit located in main office.

****AED Located in Laboratory in Main Headquarters Building**

NEAREST HOSPITAL:

For snakebites

or other traumas:

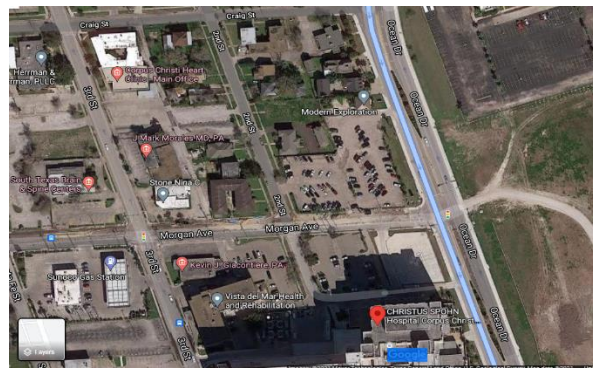
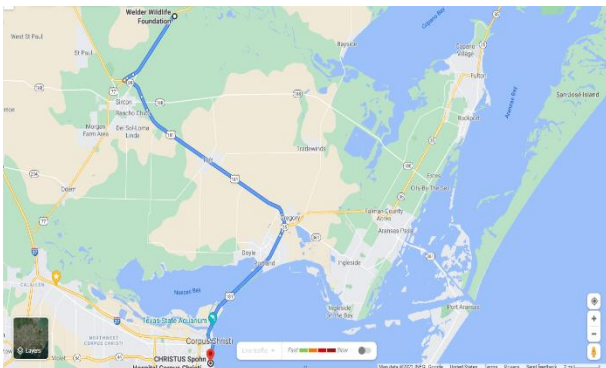


Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi, Shoreline

600 Elizabeth St, Corpus Christi, TX 78404 Phone: (361) 881-3000

Approximately 40 minutes from WWF Main Gate

1. Head northwest toward US-77 N
2. Turn left at the 1st cross street onto US-77 S
3. Use the right lane to merge onto US-77 S
4. Use the right lane to take the TX-89 ramp to US-181/Beeville/Portland
5. Turn left onto TX-89 S (signs for Portland)
6. Use the left lane to take the ramp to US-181 S
7. Continue onto US-181 S
8. Use the left lane to take the ramp onto TX-35 S
9. Continue onto TX-35 S/US-181 S
10. Use the left 2 lanes to take the exit toward Bayfront/Shoreline Blvd/C.C. Museum
11. Continue onto Twigg St *pass by Prosperity Bank-Waterstreet (on the left)
12. Turn right onto N Shoreline Blvd
13. Continue onto Ocean Dr
14. Turn right onto Morgan Street (your destination will be on your left)



HELICOPTER LANDING SITES ON WELDER WILDLIFE REFUGE:

SITE 1: HEADQUARTERS LANDING SITE

Latitude/Longitude	UTM
Lat 28° 06.775	X 655,586
Long 97° 24.963	Y 3,110,723

SITE 2: LAKE CAMP LANDING SITE

Latitude/Longitude	UTM
Lat 26° 06.885	X 659,751
Long 97° 22.420	Y 3,110,983