



ISLANDER BAND CAMP

2025

June 9-13



HANDBOOK FOR ISLANDER CAMPERS

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Part One:

Welcome to Islander Band Camp!

Mission Statement

At the Islander Band Camp, it is our mission:

- to create a positive, educational environment which promotes learning, growth, and artistic development;
- to ensure that our campers are safe, secure, and supervised by responsible adults *at all times* while giving them the freedom to enjoy themselves;
- to foster and promote social and musical growth; and
- to make sure the camp experience is FUN for **everyone!**

So what IS Band Camp?

Band Camp is a week of intensive making music in a fun and creative environment. Our campers grow as musicians and make new friends!

Upon arrival on Monday morning, each camper auditions for seating in a concert band (middle school or high school), based on his or her ability. Each band rehearses 2 times a day. Between rehearsals, the campers attend elective classes, chamber ensembles, mariachi or jazz band rehearsals – never a dull moment! A supervised recreational activity is planned every evening. Curfew is 10:00 p.m. every night.

More details about day-to-day camp life can be found in Chapter 3.

Who's going to be at this camp?

About 100 people in all. They include:

- **Campers:** We usually have around seventy or so campers.
- **Faculty and staff:** There will be about thirty adults and university students employed by the camp in some capacity – either teaching or helping to run the camp. Responsible adults will be in constant contact with the campers during the day and will be available for any issues that may arise in the evening.

How big is the university? Will my student get lost?

Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi is the only university in the country on its own island! The campus is large enough to have everything that a university should have, but not so big that it swallows our campers. They'll have to do a little bit of walking to get from place to place, but they won't get lost, because there will be **Camp Counselors** whose responsibility is to make sure that our first-time campers get where they need to be all day, every day!

What if my child is having trouble in band? Will they get left behind?

Definitely not! One of the major goals our camp is help the kids who are struggling to get the help they need. Your camper will be placed in the band that's best suited for him or her. From that point on, your child will be under the instruction of clinicians and instructors specially hired for their ability to work with the student's going into the seventh grade through high school –teachers who love working with young people!

Dining Services

Students will get to eat at the Dining Hall during camp. There will be a variety of food to choose from, so the students will always leave satisfied. **Resident campers** have meals provided throughout the week. **Commuter campers** are provided lunch each day. If commuters plan to stay for dinner, the cost is around \$15 per meal. Commuters may also bring their own dinners that can be eaten in the dining hall with the other campers.

Housing

Resident Campers will be housed in our University Residence Halls. The rooms are clean, sanitary, and secure. And it is our policy to see to it that a camper is housed with their own age group.

After curfew, campers are under the care of student dorm counselors. There will be several counselors in each wing that work a shift system so that at least one counselor is up and available to keep track of activity in their wing throughout the night. Each counselor's room will be equipped with a phone and their door will be clearly marked should a situation arise where they are needed.

Part Two: Registration Day

The following is a practical guide to getting packed, getting to the university, getting your camper registered, and saying goodbye.

What do we need to do to get ready for camp?

- Have a piece of music for the audition Monday morning.
- Check the list below and go shopping for whatever items they need but don't have.
- Make sure your camper's instrument is checked over and in working. We do not have an on-site repair technician; if a student comes in with a broken horn, we will probably not be able to fix it.

Packing, or "What do I REALLY need for camp?"

Your camper may think they need to have all their "stuff" with them - but in reality it is not necessary, so please do all you can to discourage them from bringing too much. Here's a checklist of what your camper really needs to bring:

- **Their instrument and accessories**, i.e., mutes, reeds etc. If he or she is a percussionist, they will need their snare sticks, timpani mallets and other mallets, and preferably a mallet bag with their name displayed on the bag.
- **Clothes:**
 - T-shirts and shorts or other comfortable (and appropriate) clothing
 - Closed-toed shoes for evening activities
 - A swim suit for swim night.
 - For the Finale Concert on Friday afternoon students will wear their camp shirt and shorts or pants.
- **Bedding:** a blanket, twin sheets, and a pillow with a pillowcase.
- **Towels** – one for showering and another for pool night.
- **Personal toiletry items**, i.e., toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant, soap, etc.
- **Prescription medications** if needed.
- **Spending money for recreation, pizza, sodas.** We also recommend that your camper bring another \$10.00 or so for any other personal needs that might arise. **Commuter campers** will need money for their meals as well.

OK, we're packed – now how do we GET there?

A map of the campus of Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi is provided at the end of the handbook. It is also available online at <https://www.tamucc.edu/about/campusmap.html>. It takes a little effort to get here, being on its own island and all, but it's worth it! The campus is near the corner of Ennis Joslin Road and Ocean Drive.

General Directions

- Make your way to South Padre Island Drive (TX-358)
- Exit at Ennis Joslin Road and go north, toward the water
- Turn right onto Ocean Drive (Ennis Joslin dead ends there)
- Take the **second entrance** into the university, Sand Dollar Blvd. This is vitally important! If you turn into the first entrance, there is no access to the Center of the Arts.
- Take the first right onto Wavecrest. The building directly in front of you is the Center for the Arts (#3 on the map).
 - Park in the lot on your left and go up the walkway to the building entrance.
- Resident Campers can then walk or drive over to the residence halls.

Registration

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. ALL Campers will check in at the Center for the Arts. It is here that you will receive your nametag. You will wear your name badges every day, so get used to the idea of having it on at all times while they are with us!

After that, Resident Campers will go to the residence hall and pick up their room keys; they will then be able to go to their rooms to drop off luggage and make sure everything is in working order. Commuter campers stay in the the Center for the Arts.

Account balances must be paid through IdealLogic (our registration system) before the start of camp. Payments cannot be accepted on site.

Camp T-shirts

All campers will receive a t-shirt, which is covered by the registration fee. Shirts will be distributed Thursday evening so they may be worn for the Finale Concert on Friday.

Auditions

Once Resident campers are settled in, they will proceed to the Center for the Arts (#3 on the map). As soon as you enter the CA, you will see signs telling the campers where to go for their audition – flutes in this room, clarinets in that room, *etc.* The Music Building isn't that big, so finding the right room won't be difficult. There will be practice rooms available to warm up.

Once you find the room, it's just a matter of your camper waiting their turn. With certain instruments, there'll be hardly any wait at all; with others the wait may be slightly longer. Once it's your camper's turn, they'll go in and be auditioned by the very same instructor who will be working with them all week long in section rehearsals and master classes (next chapter). Auditions will be completed by 11:00 a.m.

There will also be **jazz band and mariachi auditions** that morning. I encourage all students who are interested in jazz to audition for the jazz bands. It is a great experience! All they need to do is go to the Warren Theater after their regular audition.

After the audition(s) (whew!), students will pack up their instruments and go to room 136, where there will be activities to keep them busy until the camp meeting at 11:30 a.m.

What's this audition all about, anyway?

The audition ensures that each student is seated where he or she belongs within the band. It will last only a couple of minutes and will consist of two items:

1. One or two major scales (either C, F, B-flat or Eb); and
2. One prepared musical excerpt of the camper's choice (about one minutes worth of music). This can either be an etude (see below), or a few lines from the piece that they performed at Solo & Ensemble this spring.

What's an "etude"?

If your camper has ever tried out for the All-Region Band, they'll know what an etude is! Etude is the French word for "study"; it's a short piece composed primarily for teaching purposes. If your camper is unfamiliar with all of this, enlist the help of either her band director or her private teacher in choosing an etude or other short piece that will be suitable for this audition (most band directors are very familiar with band camps, and will know exactly what your student should play). In the end, play something you enjoy and sound good playing.

But my kid's just a beginner!

If your child just finished his beginning band class and has yet to attend region auditions, then here's what you do: have your camper pick a couple of his favorite pieces out of the band method book they used during the school year – those work just fine!

Why don't YOU guys just pick the music and send it to us?

It's best to let the campers, in cooperation with their band directors, pick their own music. The judges will be able to discern the kids' playing levels and set them fairly in spite of the differences in the pieces. Still confused about auditions? Call us!

Camp Meeting

All campers will attend the first meeting at 11:30 a.m. in Warren Theater. At this meeting, band placements will be announced along with general guidelines and rules for the camp. Campers will also be divided into their groups, where campers of different levels are assigned to one of our counselors. Those groups will travel to and from different buildings together, as a way of ensuring safety for your child. After this meeting, the campers will go to lunch before an activity full of music activities!

Part Three:

Day-to-Day Life as a Camper on the Island

This chapter will give you an overview of what your camper can expect day-to-day.

First Day activities:

After auditions and lunch, Campers will participate in master classes, rehearsals and electives. It is a busy and rewarding afternoon! Following dinner is the camp meeting, followed by a recital by our esteemed faculty and counselors. Then students will do an exciting scavenger hunt before finally going to bed, exhausted from all of the fun!

Day Two through Day Four

Your camper is up at 7:30 a.m. showers & and gets dressed, heads downstairs to meet to go to breakfast @ 7:55. The Counselors will walk them to the University Center for breakfast.

After breakfast, their schedule goes something like this (this schedule is subject to change):

High School Band

9:00 a.m.	Master Class
10:30 a.m.	Rehearsal
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Sectional
2:30 p.m.	Rehearsal
4:00 p.m.	Elective/Jazz/Mariachi
4:45 p.m.	Elective/Jazz/Mariachi
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Camp Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Evening Activity

Middle School Band

9:00 a.m.	Rehearsal
10:30 a.m.	Master Class
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Rehearsal
2:30 p.m.	Sectional
4:00 p.m.	Elective/Jazz/Mariachi
4:45 p.m.	Elective/Jazz/Mariachi
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Camp Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Evening Activity

EVENING ACTIVITIES: We have a variety of events to keep our campers entertained in the evening hours.

DAY FIVE

Last day of camp – and although your campers are tired and actually miss their parents, they think of all the wonderful friends they have made and good times they had, wishing camp could last forever! Note: The first event for **Commuter campers** begins at **10:30 a.m.** on Friday.

Resident campers will bring their luggage to the CA in the morning, where it will be stored in a secure room. After the concert, students will check out of camp when they come to pick up their luggage.

The events on the final day look like this:

9:00 a.m.	Dorm check-out (Residents only)
10:30 am	Rehearsals (HS in Warren Theater)
12:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 p.m.	Rehearsals (MS in Warren Theater)
2:15 p.m.	Prepare for Concert
3:00 pm	Finale Concert
4:00 p.m.	CAMP ENDS!

Part Four: Rules and Regulations and Safety Guidelines

In order to ensure the safety and well-being of all campers, there are some rules and regulations all students need to follow.

GENERAL RULES

1. GENERAL RULES OF COURTESY WILL BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES.
2. At NO time will there be any girls in boy's rooms or vice-versa.
3. Students must be on time for all camp sessions with the proper equipment; failure to do so could cause you to move to the end of your section.
4. Smoking or consumption of alcoholic beverages by campers is not permitted.
5. Curfews will be strictly enforced.
6. Room check will be made immediately following curfew; all students must be in their rooms and remain there after check is made.
7. Doors should be kept locked at all times to protect valuables.
8. Campers are expected to wear identification badges at all times.
9. Destruction or theft of university property, littering of the premises, or conduct unbecoming to a band student will not be tolerated.
10. Instruments are not to be played in areas other than those designated for rehearsals, warm-ups, or practice.
11. **Campus Police** are on duty for your protection; if you need immediate assistance, call them. **(361-825-6002)**
12. Students are not permitted to ride in cars except when accompanied by parents or directors.
13. Students must stay on the university campus at all times unless accompanied by parents or directors. This includes day campers.
14. Any violation of the above regulations may result in the student being sent home and refused all future participation in the Islander Band Camp.

CAFETERIA RULES - Common rules of courtesy will be observed in the cafeteria. These include:

1. Stay in line.
2. Take off hats.
3. Shirts and shoes must be worn.
4. Do not tamper with salt and pepper shakers.
5. Do not overcrowd tables.
6. Put your tray away.
7. Leave tables clean.
8. No food fights, yelling, or dancing on the tables.

CAMP MEETINGS

The camp meeting occurs at 7:00 p.m. daily and attendance is required for all resident campers. Announcements, mail, messages, awards, and gifts are made at this time. If a Commuter camper must leave prior to the meeting, be sure to ask the counselors for the information he or she missed.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Student health and safety are very important to all us at the Islander Band Camp, so remember:

1. Let a counselor know if you do not feel well.
2. Wash or disinfect your hands frequently.
3. Do not share food, instruments, reeds, *etc.*, to minimize spreading of germs.

The camp will *not* provide masks, so if a student wishes to wear one, they must bring their own.

ACTIVITIES

The campers and staff are entertained throughout the week by nightly activities which begin at 7:15 p.m. after the camp meeting and finish around 9:30 p.m. All activities are **tentative** and could change, though there will be something every night of the week. Middle school campers participate in different events every night than the high school campers. Some possible activities are:

Gym Night

Camp Olympics: An evening of fun games for students of all ages!

Movie Night: Grab a bag of popcorn and settle in for a night of entertainment!

Swim Night: Bring your swimsuits as campers get to enjoy our university pool! Professional lifeguards will be on site for the evening.

Jazz and Chamber Music Night: The camp jazz bands perform for the whole camp in one of the most popular events of all of band camp. Also featured are student ensembles that have been working together all week. Jazz and Chamber Music Night is Thursday night of band camp.

Band awards are presented for the **OUTSTANDING MALE** and **OUTSTANDING FEMALE** in each concert band. Each jazz band will select an outstanding jazz musician. The Outstanding Camper will be selected from the entire camp population and receive an award and a commuter scholarship to next year's camp!

OTHER SERVICES

UNIVERSITY CENTER

The TAMU-CC Dining Hall provides breakfast, lunch and dinner for all resident campers.

BOOKSTORE

The TAMU-CC Bookstore operates daily and is adjacent to the University Center. The bookstore carries personal items, film, gifts, clothes, and souvenirs.

CAMPUS POLICE

The TAMU-CC Police Department provides around the clock patrols and security of the dorms and buildings. Telephone: 361-825-6002. Emergency: 911.

LOST AND FOUND (CA 113A)

The lost and found is located in CA 113A. Lost money should be put in an envelope with the amount on the outside and turned in to the camp office. **PLEASE LABEL ALL YOUR PERSONAL ITEMS FOR SECURITY REASONS AND SO IT IS EASY TO LOCATE YOU.** Please do not bring expensive items like laptops and MP3 players; cell phones are fine but may only be used after classes and camp meetings. NO TEXT MESSAGING during class or rehearsal.

Part Five:

General Information and Frequently Asked Questions

This chapter is a “catch-all” for items that were not addressed in previous chapters, and an attempt to answer various questions.

In case of illness or injury:

1. **During the day:** If a camper feels ill or is injured during the regular camp day, they are to come to the Camp Office (CA113A); or notify any adult – a faculty or staff member, a counselor, a band director, anybody associated with the camp, and that person will call us. **THE CAMPER SHOULD NOT GO BACK TO THEIR ROOM WITHOUT FIRST TALKING TO AN ADULT.** The camper will be transported to the appropriate medical facility if necessary:
 - For minor illnesses, Camp Office, in the Center for the Arts
 - For major trauma, Christus Spohn Shoreline Hospital, 10 minutes from the Music Building.
2. **After hours/during the night:** Campers who feel they need medical attention after hours are to notify the counselor on duty, who will make the decision about how to handle the situation.
3. **In the morning:** Campers who feel ill upon awakening in the morning should get dressed, go downstairs and report to the counselor. He or she will call us here in the Camp Office and we will come and transport the camper to the appropriate medical facility.

Campers are not to do the following:

- **Stay in bed and do nothing.** We need to know when our campers are ill. If a camper really is too sick even to get out of bed, they are to notify their roommate, who will then notify a counselor. If, upon visiting the nurse, the nurse prescribes bed rest, the camper will be permitted to return to his dorm to sleep. Be advised, however, that this usually means that we will recommend that the camper go home.
- **Walk to the Camp Office by themselves.** Why? Two reasons: 1) we do not want sick campers passing out on the sidewalk on the way to the station, and 2) we have no way of knowing that the camper is sick. Campers need not feel that they are inconveniencing us by asking us to take them to first aid – we’re here to serve.

Will I be notified if my child is sick or hurt?

In cases of major trauma, we will notify you immediately. In cases of minor illness or injury, campers may call you if they wish. If that illness or injury warrants early dismissal from camp, a camp director will call the parents directly to discuss the issue – no camper will be dismissed for medical reasons without consulting the parents first. For further details, see “Medical Release Authorization” included in the application process.

Early Dismissal Procedure:

If, for medical or disciplinary reasons, it becomes necessary to dismiss a camper early, you will be called and asked to pick up your camper. Parents of Resident campers should go to the residence hall where your camper is staying. Once you have your camper packed and ready to go sign out with the R.A. and have the camper **turn in his or her key**. Then check out at the Center for the Arts so we know the camper has left.

If for some reason you need to pull your camper out of camp before its conclusion, the procedure is the same as the above, except that you initiate the process by calling Brian Shelton or the camp office first and letting us know who the camper is, and what time you plan on coming. The R.A. will be notified and he or she will release your camper upon your arrival.

Insurance policy for campers

Under the terms of our camp insurance policy, all campers receive all the medical care they need while they are at camp; all illnesses or injuries incurred while your camper is with us are covered from the time you leave them here on Monday until the time you pick them up on Friday. This coverage does not include the following:

- Illness or injury due to preexisting conditions (asthma, prior injuries, etc.)
- Ambulance service pertaining to the above;
- Orthodontia (i.e., braces).

This does not mean that we will reject your camper's application if they have asthma or other preexisting medical conditions, nor does it mean we will not take care of your camper if they need medical attention. It simply means that in these cases, our insurance will not cover these services.

Refund Policy

Our refund policy is as follows:

A FULL REFUND of tuition, room and board, minus the \$100.00 deposit (processing/application fee), is given **ONLY** when the reservation is cancelled in writing before May 26, 2025. No refund will be given after that point.

But my child can't help it if she gets sick!

Please understand that we must have this policy in place to protect ourselves. When we decide to hold one of these camps, we take on a tremendous financial risk: hiring clinicians and faculty members, contracting housing and food services, etc. This is why we must keep a camper's tuition after a predetermined date or once camp starts regardless of the reasons for the camper's departure.

What if the camp is cancelled?

Should the camp be cancelled for any reason, campers will receive a prorated discount based on the number of days the camp was in session, minus the \$100.00 deposit. For example, if the camp is cancelled after two full days, campers will receive a 60% discount of the total fee minus deposit. Camp cancellation is at the discretion of the camp directors.

and/or the university. In case of cancellation, each camper's parent or guardian may need to fill out the proper paperwork for the refund. All refunds will be done through CircuiTree.

Mail Call!

You may send your campers cards, letter, CARE packages, cookies, whatever you want—we'll see that your camper gets his mail. The address is:

<camper's name>
Islander Band Camp
6300 Ocean Drive
Unit 5720
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Mail arrives every morning and will be given out to campers at the camp meeting. If you send something after Wednesday, we will probably not get it in time to deliver it to the camper.

Frequently Asked Questions [FAQs]

The following is a list of questions frequently asked by parents which I may not have covered in earlier chapters:

1. *If I need to reach my child quickly, what's the best way to do that?*

Everyone seems to have a cell phone these days, so you can text your camper any time for an update or to say help. Otherwise, here is how you can reach them:

- During the day (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.): call the Band Office at 361-825-2761.
- In the evening, cell phone is best.
- If all else fails: call our University Police at 361-825-6002. This is worst-case scenario, so please try and contact us first.

2. *Can my kid order pizza at night?*

Yes – there are restaurants that deliver pizza and other such goodies. Campers may certainly use these services, as long as they place their orders early enough – orders must arrive by 9:45 p.m.

3. *My child calls and says “Mom, I HATE it here! Please come get me!” What do I do?*

We can always count on a few cases of homesickness every summer, especially with young first-time campers—and it always seems to happen within the first couple of days. What we've observed from past experience is that if we can keep a student here just a couple more days, he/she'll come around, and end up not wanting to go home even when camp's over! So here's what you do:

1. Advise your camper to “stick it out just one more day; if you still feel the same way tomorrow, I'll come get you.” Then, after you hang up. . .
2. Call us so that we can swing into Operation Save-A-Camper: One of the Camper Leaders of the same gender as your child; he or she will immediately find him, take him/her under his wing, and hopefully the next phone call you get will be from a HAPPY CAMPER!!

If he's still miserable the following day, we can authorize early dismissal and try it again next year.

4. *May I come up just for a visit during the week?*

By all means! Just let us know in advance, especially if you intend to take your camper off campus, so we can know the whereabouts of all the campers. We will not allow campers to get into vehicles other than their parent's or legal guardian's vehicle.

5. *To what extent will my middle school camper be exposed to older students?*

We try to keep the Middle School camp and the High School camp separate as much as possible—separate ensembles, separate evening activities, and separate rooms in the Residence Halls. There are, however, times when the intermingling of the two camps is inevitable: mealtimes, recitals, and concerts.

6. *If my camper is in middle school but plays well enough to be in one of the high school bands, is she necessarily LIMITED to one of the younger bands?*

This something that we grapple with every summer—on the one hand, we want to keep the two camps separate primarily for social reasons; on the other hand, we do every so often have a

junior high camper of superior ability who would be limited if we put her in a younger band. So we do, upon the recommendation of the judges and the approval of the camper, make exceptions every now and then.

7. *OK, so what about high school campers who are NOT particularly strong players?*

All players will be placed according to age and performing level. High school students will only play in high school bands, regardless of ability. Students who are entering 9th grade in the fall may choose which ensemble they wish to audition for, but they will be strongly encouraged to play in the one the instructors believe fits them best.

8. *What time do I pick up my child on Friday afternoon when camp is over?*

The Final Concert goes from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon. All Resident campers will check out after the concert has concluded. If your camper must leave early, please let a counselor know so he or she can be checked out before the end of the concert.

9. *What's the checkout procedure?*

Students will check out of their dorm rooms on Friday morning, and their luggage and personal belongings will be stored in the Wilson Theater in the Center for the Arts. That way, they can leave immediately following the concert. After the concert, campers will retrieve their belongings and be on their way!

10. *What happens if my child has instrument problems while he's at camp?*

At this juncture, let me remind you once again of the importance of having the instrument checked out by a technician before camp—we have no on-site technician here. So if your camper comes to us with a broken horn, sometimes we can fix it, sometimes we can issue a loaner, but unfortunately, in some cases we end up having to take the instrument up to a repair shop... If we have to do that, be aware that you must reimburse us for the work.

Some Final Thoughts

We sincerely hope that this guide has been helpful in letting you know what to expect and how to help your son or daughter prepare for camp. You no doubt will think of questions that aren't addressed in this booklet—so call or email us, and we'll answer your questions AND maybe even put your question in future editions of this booklet! The main thing we want to impress upon you is the importance of COMMUNICATING with the staff—there's not a problem in the world that can't be resolved with a little one-on-one communication. If for some reason camp turns out to be a negative experience, either for you or for your camper, please TELL us. If, however, it turns out to be the wonderful, positive experience that we're hoping it will be, please tell OTHERS—your friends, your band director, and your school administrators!! We ALWAYS have room for more campers!!

Again, thank you for choosing our camp program; we look forward to meeting you!

Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi

Campus Map

