

Parent Guide

TechLab: Caves



June 26th – July 28th, 2023
Anderson High School
8403 Mesa Drive Austin TX 78759

Vincent Wrencher
Camp Director
512-773-2777

Patricia Cruz
Program Director
512-228-9189

Welcome to Techlab: Cave! We are so excited that your child will be joining us for a ROCKING Good Time on a week full of amazing technology and cool activities. TechLab introduces kids to products, technology and programming to help them dream big. We can't wait to share it with you!

BEFORE CAMP STARTS

MEDICAL FORMS

We must have a **medical form** on file for each camper. You can locate that file at:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

The form is a quick fillable PDF, so you can fill it out, print, and sign it without spending a lot of time. Note that there is a place for you to sign the form on Part B if you want to give us permission to administer over the counter medications like Tylenol or Benadryl. This form does NOT require a doctor signature.

If you have any questions or concerns you can contact the camp Director, Vincent Wrencher at 512-773-2777, or you can contact the camp Program Director, Patricia Cruz, at 512-228-9189 before camp.

THE WEEK OF CAMP

CAMP LOCATION

TechLab takes place at Anderson High School, at the corner of Mesa and Steck. Drop off and pick up campers in the courtyard adjacent to the parking lot off of Steck Avenue. Our Camp Office (Solution Cave) is located in the Applied Technology Center (ATC). This year all campers, 3rd-5th & 6th-9th grade campers will use the Applied Technology Center.

CAMP HOURS

Camp runs from 9am to 3:30pm each day, Monday through Friday. You may drop your camper off beginning at 8:45am. We do appreciate prompt pickup at 3:30 each afternoon.

EXTENDED CARE

The camp offers extended care at the school before camp from 8am to 9am, and after camp from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. If you will utilize the extended care program you need to register for it in advance so that we have adequate staffing (if you checked yes to either AM or PM or Both, you are registered). Pickup from afternoon Extended Care will be from the Applied Technology Center. (See map for its location on campus)

MORNING ARRIVAL AT CAMP

Each morning, we will gather in the courtyard next to the main parking lot off Steck Avenue. You must check your child in with a staff member each morning. We will have staffers in the courtyard ready to sign campers in as they arrive. Do NOT leave your child at camp without having checked them in.

AFTERNOON PICKUP FROM CAMP

At 3:30 each day we will again gather in the courtyard to prepare for dismissal. Please park and walk in to get your child. Do NOT take your child from camp without checking them out. We will not allow campers to walk unescorted through the parking lot to your car.

TechLab Main Drop Off/Pick Up

During Camp Drop Off/Pick Up
Afternoon Extended Care Pick Up
Main Camp Office and Classes



LATE ARRIVALS OR EARLY DEPARTURES

If your child will be arriving late or leaving from camp early, please check them in and sign them out with one of the camp directors in the camp office in the ATC Building.

ABSENCES

Please let us know if your child will be absent from camp one day. You may contact Vincent Wrencher by email (vincent.wrencher@austinisd.org) or text (512-773-2777). Please include the camper's full name and your own.

LUNCH

Each camper needs to bring their own lunch each day. All lunches are refrigerated until lunchtime, and bulky lunch boxes are hard to fit in the refrigerator. Labeled zip-lock type bags are preferred. We will provide morning and afternoon snack.

PARENT DAY

Each week we will host a parent day at the end of camp. We welcome you to come and see what your child has been doing all week at camp! Plan to arrive at 3:30pm, and we will be finished by 4:30pm. The kids will show off their work, sing songs, and perform skits.

WHAT TO WEAR EACH DAY

1. Camp t-shirt
 - a. **TUESDAYS:** Wear any past Techlab, Austin Cans or a solid gray shirt
 - b. **THURSDAYS:** Wear any cave theme shirt
2. Closed-toe shoes
3. Socks
4. Sunscreen - put this on before you get to camp. We will be spending a portion of the day outside each day as weather permits

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

1. Backpack or bag for holding their stuff
2. Lunch in a marked sack or plastic bag (large zip-locks work well). Lunches are kept in a refrigerator until lunch time. We must fit everyone's lunch in, so please do not send large or bulky lunch boxes/bags.
3. Water Bottle. We will have water jugs in the ATC for campers to refill their water bottles. There are also water fountains around the school that have a spot to refill a water bottle. We will have plenty of opportunities to refill water bottles as needed throughout the day.
4. Medication needed for the day, to be turned in to the camp medic. Medication must be in the original containers, and you must have filled in the section on Part B of the medical form approving administration of the medication.

Note - please label everything that you want your child to come home with! Lost and found will be in camp office (Solution Cave).

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

1. Electronic games, radios, headphones, mp3 players. Your child may have a cell phone with them, but it should stay packed away during camp.
5. Glass containers
6. Knives, firearms, slingshots, matches or fireworks
7. Valuables

Dealing with the Heat

This year is very hot in Texas! While we are a mostly indoor camp, we do go outside for the opening and closings, lunch break, and during some class activities, such as nature hikes, engineering challenges and team building activities. At Techlab we believe that time outdoors and being active are important for learning and thriving in any STEAM field.

Families, campers and the camp must all work together in order to be safe in the heat. At Techlab, we have

- Added additional ice water stations in outdoor areas,
- Will be providing campers with cool towels and towel dunking stations,
- Have moved our lunch area to a more shaded courtyard,
- Will stress to campers to walk, not run,

- Will stress to campers to communicate if they are feeling hot or overheating during outdoor time,
- Have added multiple water games and activities to our break time and
- Have several misting stations in high use areas.

We need our families and campers to do the following to help protect everyone during this hot summer:

- **BRING A WATER BOTTLE AND DRINK LOTS AND LOTS OF WATER.**
- Use the cooling towel when hot
- Communicate any issues and intolerances to the camp staff and instructors (please note if your youth does not handle heat well, please note on the medical form or when you check in so that we can let our instructors know).
- Tell instructors if they do not want to go outside (we will have additional activities for these campers, but some merit badge requirements may not get completed).
- Apply sunscreen before camp and bring some to apply during the day.
- Bring a hat and sunglasses

Camp Code

A Cave Explorer is

Considerate

Adaptable

Valued

Enthusiastic

Safe and **Rocks**