

HAVE FUN, BE SAFE THIS LABOR DAY



Summer is almost over, but Labor Day is coming, offering one more chance to have some fun in the sun before the fall semester gets into full swing. If you are looking for a little outdoors fun, the Brazos River Authority has got you covered.

The Brazos River and its tributaries offer plentiful opportunities to get away from it all. Since the river bed is public land, visitors are free to paddle, camp, fish, hunt and do other activities within the banks. Just keep in mind that much of the land along the banks is privately owned. For more information about paddling the Brazos, including lists of areas to put in, click [here](#) to go to Southwestpaddler.com, a great resource.

If you want to camp, boat, fish or just spend the day relaxing at the Authority's Granbury and Limestone lakes, you can for free year-round. Most of Possum Kingdom Lake is free as well. The public use areas that currently have minimal summer fees for camping and day use will be free beginning the second week of September.

Reservations are not required to camp at Authority lakes, and the plentiful sites are first come, first serve. For more information about recreation opportunities at Authority lakes or the rivers in the Brazos Basin, click [here](#). However, before you set out, here are some tips to help make your visit to the water a safe one:

- Provide life jackets for each person in your boat. Click [here](#) for more information about life jackets and Texas requirements.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and current water and weather conditions. If you are going to be on the river, check whether the dam upstream will be releasing water. The Authority puts information about releases on its home page, [here](#). You can view river flow information [here](#). In general, 500 to 1,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) is ideal, 1,200 to 3,000 cfs is hazardous and 3,000 to 5,000 cfs is for experts only. More than 5,000 cfs is too dangerous for any skill level. Click [here](#) for weather conditions.
- Keep a lookout while navigating on crowded lakes or rivers.
- Follow the navigation rules, buoys and law enforcement regulations on the waterways. Click [here](#) to learn more about boating laws and [here](#) for Authority lake regulations.
- Do not drink alcohol while operating a boat. Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) is as serious an offense as driving your car while drinking.
- Report accidents. If you do have a boating accident, you must file a report within 30 days if the accident results in death, injury or damage to property in excess of \$500. These accident reports should be filed with the Law Enforcement Division of the local Parks & Wildlife Department.
- Texas License/Registration - If you own a boat, it is imperative that your vessel is registered and meets all requirements. All motorized boats, regardless of length, and sailboats that are 14 feet or longer or have an auxiliary motor must be registered with the state.
- Hazard/Navigational Buoys - Hazard and Navigation buoys are placed throughout Authority lakes to alert you to potential hazards, water conditions, and restrictions. Click [here](#) for a buoy identification legend.



Have fun this Labor Day, but remember, safety first.