



Camp Shakespeare 2022 Information Packet

Details for Summer 2022

Two sessions:

Session I: Sunday, June 12 – Sunday, June 26

Session II: Sunday, July 3 – Sunday, July 17

Camp Site:

In 2019 Camp Shakespeare was housed at Rancho Pillow in Round Top.
ranchopillow.com

Camp Fee:

\$1,700.00

Deadline for applications:

March 1, 2022

Plays:

Session I: *As You Like It*

Session II: *Macbeth*

Three public performances of each play:

Session One:

Friday	June 24	3:30pm
Saturday	June 25	7:00pm
Sunday	June 26	2:00pm

Session Two:

Friday	July 15	3:30pm
Saturday	July 16	7:00pm
Sunday	July 17	2:00pm

Overview

Camp Shakespeare is a two-week University of Texas residential summer camp for young people, ages 11-17,* dedicated to exploring Shakespeare through performance. "Exploring" and "performance" are key words here. They suggest that we are finding our way not through rehearsals but performances. Every moment is performance. Campers are challenged to play out their interpretative discoveries on stage.

(*The younger applicants must have reached 11 by January 1, 2022.)

All the elements of the program are intended to promote an understanding and appreciation of the works of Shakespeare, and of their extraordinarily complex and penetrating vision of human life. Campers develop, test, and transcend their sense of self through their exploration of Shakespearean characters. What we pursue here is the conviction that anyone can live life more fully through a personal encounter with Shakespeare's art.

Camp Shakespeare seeks kids who work well with others, who are inventive, elastic, eager to play, explore and take risks, and are ready to rumble when they arrive.

Camp Shakespeare accepts applications from candidates anywhere, in public, private, or home schools. Experience with theater or with Shakespeare is not necessary. Commitment to working and playing with others is. Each session will be composed of 14 students.

Daily Schedule and Activity

Campers begin their day quite early, at 6:30am with cabin-cleaning and other assigned duties before meeting in groups or with the staff to work on lines, characterization, or a scene at 7:00am. A brief period of physical and vocal exercise follows. Then breakfast. Morning and afternoon work/play sessions (from 8:15am - 4:00pm) take place in the Theater Barn at Winedale and the air-conditioned Windy Knoll in Round Top. Every lunch is a picnic, prepared and set out by campers. Late afternoon sessions (4:00pm - 6:00pm) are busy with journal writing, relaxation exercises, quiet time, painting, mask-making, lines, and preparing for the evening. Improvised "problem-solving" exercises, singing, dancing, and free improvisational play follow supper. The day concludes with film sequences of Shakespeare's plays and Cabin Time, wherein campers "unwind" and exchange responses to accomplishments of the day. Lights out: 9:15 p.m.

Camp Fee

The cost of Camp Shakespeare '22 is \$1,700. Some scholarships are available. Please contact either Robin Grace Soto or Doc Ayres for information.

robingracesoto@utexas.edu

jayres@cvctx.com.

Camp Site

The site of Camp Shakespeare in 2019, the last summer we hosted an in-person class, was Rancho Pillow, a 20-acre comfortable country and creative environment near Round Top, Texas. Students enjoyed the privilege of using and the responsibility of caring for these beautifully-decorated 19th century Texas buildings which served as dormitories, dining, and gathering spaces. See ranchopillow.com

Staff

Camp Director: Robin Grace Soto

Robin Grace Soto is the Director of Camp Shakespeare and has been with the program for 14 years. With her decades of experience as an artist and arts educator, Robin brings an emphasis on social-emotional learning to the study of "Shakespeare Through Performance." Each year at Camp Shakespeare, she leads a team of guest artists and interns in creating intentional activities that help campers feel empowered to share their thoughts, feelings, and ideas in creative and imaginative ways. She prioritizes relationship-building and

encourages campers to promote one another's successes while also recognizing and developing their own strengths. Robin and Dr. James B "Doc" Ayres' successful partnership in running Camp Shakespeare is highlighted in the soon-to-be-released, feature-length documentary film, "Take Pains, Be Perfect."

Director of Mission: Dr. Jim (Doc) Ayres, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, The University of Texas at Austin, Founding Director of Shakespeare at Winedale and Founding Director and Director of Mission of Camp Shakespeare. Doc has explored Shakespeare's plays through performance with university and high, middle, and elementary schools for 51 years and taken Shakespeare at Winedale to the London Globe and Royal Shakespeare Company Swan theatres. His work with elementary students formed the basis for the current "Shakespeare Outreach Program," and his university courses on "Play and Culture" and "Teaching through Performance," won him a number of awards.

Doc and Robin will be assisted by three other experienced guest artists and interns each session.

Application Procedure

Each session will be composed of 14 students. The application process requires prospective campers to send:

1. the completed Registration Form
2. the completed Application with an essay by the applicant
 - (a) introducing themselves and
 - (b) explaining why they wish to participate in Camp Shakespeare 2022, exploring expectations/hopes/goals
3. two letters of recommendation from teachers. Applications from former campers do not require teachers' letters.

Please email all application materials, including letters of recommendation for new campers, to Robin Grace Soto at robingracesoto@utexas.edu and Doc Ayres at jayres@cvctx.com. We will no longer be accepting applications that have been mailed to the PO Box. All applications must be received electronically.

Application process for NEW CAMPERS

- Part One: Registration Form
Due: ASAP to register your intent to apply.
Must be received by March 1, 2022.

New Camper Registration Form

- Part Two: Application and Essay
Due: March 1, 2022
(Plus 2 Letters of Recommendation)

New Camper Application and Essay Form

- Part Three: Phone or Zoom Interview
between February 1 and February 28.
- Final selections will be announced on or around March 4, 2022.

NOTE: Applicants cannot be considered for acceptance unless all application materials have been submitted before the deadlines listed above. We strongly encourage applicants to get their materials in as early as possible. Please email all application materials to Robin Grace Soto at robingracesoto@utexas.edu and Doc Ayres at jayres@cvctx.com.

Application Process for FORMER CAMPERS

- Part One: Registration Form
Due: ASAP to register your intent to apply.
Must be received by March 1, 2022

Former Camper Registration Form

- Part Two: Essay
Due: March 1st, 2022
Final selections will be announced on or around March 4, 2022.

Former Camper Application and Essay Form

NOTE: Applicants cannot be considered for acceptance unless all application materials have been submitted before the deadlines listed above. We strongly encourage applicants to get their materials in as early as possible. Please email

all application materials to Robin Grace Soto at robingracesoto@utexas.edu and Doc Ayres at jayres@cvctx.com.

Selection Process

We do not audition applicants. We do interview new applicants and give serious consideration to letters of recommendation.

Former Campers should be aware that their prior experience in Camp does not automatically guarantee them a place in the next Camp sessions.

All applications are reviewed by the directors. Our goal is to select equal numbers of boys and girls, a balance of new and former campers and a fair representation of all ages (11-17). We attempt to honor the applicant's first choice for session but often we must take the second choice because of the balances we seek in gender, age, and between new and former camper experience. Often, we cannot select candidates who select only one session, for the same reasons.

As we read new applications, we give major consideration to the applicant's ability to live, work, and play cooperatively and generously with others; desire for shared and disciplined play experience; a willingness to try new things, risk, and explore; and to a firm commitment to the ensemble approach. With former camper applications, we consider not only their contributions in every one of those areas, but also their leadership, their positive approach to every part of camp and to their development as a healthy and energetic community player.

Applicants are therefore applying for a play experience, not a specific Shakespearean play or part. After notification of selection, campers will receive role (character) assignments and suggestions about preparation.

Notification of Acceptance

Candidates will be notified of their acceptance on or around March 4th, 2022 and are expected to acknowledge acceptance by e-mail. To secure registration, parents of Campers selected should submit the full (\$1,500.00) fee payment through the UT On-Line Registration System.

Camp Policies

At Camp Shakespeare, we hope to create together a highly original, extraordinary learning experience. We have a country setting for that, much like Shakespeare's forest of Arden or the wood outside Athens. There is a different clock here. This world is filled with magic, wonder, song, and words and we do it without cell phones, computers, iPads, radios, or electronic games. The only TV game show here is Shakespeare. We do encourage campers to bring musical instruments of any kind. Upon acceptance into the program, campers are notified of what items to bring and not to bring.

Telephone Contact and Visitation

Camp staff members notify parents of a camper's illness and/or problems with following the daily schedule or working with others, explaining how we are addressing those difficulties. Parents wishing to contact campers for any reason should call any of the five staff members at any time.

Preparations for Camp

Upon acceptance, campers will be sent a text of the play chosen (with plenty of space for questions and annotation), role assignments, information about what to bring to Camp, a Release and Indemnification form and a Medical History report all to be submitted on-line through the UT on-line registration system. Campers prepare by reading and re-reading the play and by working toward understanding language and characterization. Campers are expected to have memorized all of their assigned lines by the arrival date. Campers may at any time e-mail any of the staff for assistance, advice, suggestions, or answers to questions arising during this period of preparation.

Campers who arrive at Camp without the preparation noted above may be dismissed from Camp.

COVID Precautions and Preparations

At this time, Youth Camps for Summer 2022 have been approved by the UT Executive Leadership team, including day and residential programs. This can change depending upon the status of COVID. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Campers and Staff must submit a negative COVID test taken no more than 3 days before the first day of Camp.

Summary

Camp Shakespeare seeks students who:

- work well with others
- are ready and eager to speak up, make observations and respond to others from the beginning
- are inventive, elastic, eager to explore and take risks
- are ready to rumble (get involved, assist others, take initiative) when they arrive
- desire to live, work, and play with a positive attitude, cooperatively and generously with others
- have a desire for shared and disciplined play experience
- have a willingness to try new things, risk, and explore and do those
- have a firm commitment to the ensemble approach

Further Information

Our website, shakespeare-winedale.org, carries up-to-date information about the summer camp. Parents and candidates are urged to check the site weekly for new information and possible changes. Questions of any kind about Camp Shakespeare 2022 should be directed to Robin Grace Soto at robingracesoto@utexas.edu and Doc Ayres at jayres@cvctx.com.

The following observations by a former (1980) Shakespeare at Winedale student whose daughter (age 12) attended Camp Shakespeare, and the parent of a recent camper (age 16), say quite a bit about what happens at Camp Shakespeare:

Their accomplishment [at Camp] is the more remarkable when we consider that none of these students are theater or drama students but only kids interested in working together to explore a play through performance. In the process, their play becomes a vehicle for their exploration of language, of social encounter and problem-solving, for developing self-confidence and self-esteem, verbal and written expression, and, through Shakespeare, for gaining insight into the human condition.

Looking in from the outside, it's a pretty risky thing that Camp Shakespeare is doing. I actually think that's why it works. It creates the right community for those kids – it's not about me, it's about us; it's about the play. The kids realize what amazing stuff they can accomplish in just two weeks' time by letting go. The camp empowers kids to be themselves and use what they've got, and puts faith in them that they can do it. Believing they can do it, they do!