

DAYTRIPPER

Finding a treasure **IN THE WOODS**



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Above right: Camp Niwana in Woodville offers screened-in cabins with electricity to accommodate 50 to 75 people overnight.

Above: Nestled in the Big Thicket national preserve, Camp Niwana is the perfect location for your summer outings.

You don't have to travel far to find the perfect outdoor setting for your summer and fall events.

BY BARR HOUSTON

Camp Niwana in Woodville, Texas offers a beautiful, rustic site on 60 acres in the Big Thicket national preserve, conveniently located halfway between Beaumont and Nacogdoches.

Now is the time to plan your church outings, family reunions, company picnics, school trips, trail rides, emergency services trainings, re-enactor events, birding and hiking clubs, LARPs and other activities. Relaxing and playing outside together in an informal environment is a proven way to boost morale and develop team spirit, which can lead to greater productivity and excitement about your organization.

Unfortunately, finding a site with the amenities you need at a price your organization can afford is often a

stumbling block, and many groups simply cancel their dreams as a result.

Camp Niwana is ready to help make these dreams a reality. Its primary features include indoor space for both large and small meetings or group events, screened-in cabins (with electricity) to accommodate 50-75 people overnight and modern restroom facilities just a few steps away in each main unit area. For those who like to prepare barbecue or other wonderful meals, you can even bring your own cooks. Guests can save money by doing their own cooking in the fully equipped kitchen. No need to hire a caterer for your event. The swimming pool, outdoor games equipment room and other specialty areas may also be available with spe-





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Campers attend swimming lessons at Camp Niwana in Woodville. The camp offers children an opportunity to develop resilience, independence and self confidence while experiencing exciting outdoor adventures.

cial arrangements in advance.

Niwana can help with a variety of event needs. Past groups have included site rental for full-week camps offered by churches or other youth organizations, as well as one-day or weekend events. An example is the recent Big Thicket Ren Faire, which was an exciting day filled with royalty, pirates, fire spinners and other great performers. Niwana is animal-friendly, and equine organizations are welcome. There is plenty of room for horse trailers and trucks, and plenty of fresh grass in our fields for the horses to munch on, too.

Camp Niwana also offers traditional summer camp experiences for children in kindergarten through high school, both resident camp and day camp. Summer camp experiences are well-known as one of the best ways for children to develop resilience, independence and self-confidence, as they have exciting adventures in the great outdoors while supervised by trained staff. Campers enjoy beautiful summer days spent hiking, cooking over an open fire, making arts and crafts, singing and meeting new friends. All campers attend swimming lessons each morning at their own appropriate class level, with free swim every afternoon. Older campers can choose from additional activities such as archery, riflery, dramatics or a canoe trip.



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Above: Camp Niwana campers enjoy their experience in the great outdoors by taking a fun canoe trip.

Below: The sun sets over Camp Niwana, an inviting and rustic site located in the Big Thicket national preserve in Woodville.

Camp Niwana is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that is owned and operated by the Camp Fire Southeast Texas. The camp has served families for almost 65 years, and is on its third generation of summer campers, as the grandchildren of the first original campers are now attending summer camp. It also offers year-round training opportunities in a variety of subject areas, including First Aid and CPR.

Camp Niwana is such a wonderful place, and we have been creating special memories for a long time. We look forward to welcoming more people into our extended Niwana community. ♥

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUMMER CAMP OR NIWANA'S YEAR-ROUND SITE RENTAL, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CAMPNIWANA.ORG, EMAIL TO CAMPFIRESSETC@GMAIL.COM OR CALL (409) 283-3224.

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