

Taylor's of Tabernacle Camp Meeting

Visitor's Guide

Thank you for your interest in visiting the annual Taylor's of Tabernacle camp meeting. In order to avoid confusion, disappointment or unintended insult we offer this guidance for your visit. We hope this information is helpful.

Our Tabernacle camp meeting combines the annual revival meeting of Tabernacle Church (UMC) and the annual Taylor family reunion. Both begin with a Friday evening church service, and end with the evening church service on the following Thursday. The meeting has taken place every year since before 1830, and currently is held in mid-July.

Church services are held in Tabernacle Church. Surrounding the church is the private property of the family, the campground on which "campers" have built a variety of individually owned camp houses and cabins in which they eat, sleep and live during the meeting. Tabernacle Cemetery is adjacent to the campground. Campers (and those in the cemetery) are family members or others with strong connections to the Tabernacle Church community. Respectful and well behaved visitors are welcome to join in church services, tour the campground and visit the cemetery, but they do so at their own risk.

The church and grounds (including the cemetery) are quite rustic. They do not have every modern amenity and do not offer handicapped access or facilities. We have two simple bathhouses with sinks, showers and toilets, but they do not have handicapped facilities. Paths and walkways are typically dirt or gravel, with exposed roots and other hazards, and are not well lit. Depending on the weather, the paths may be slippery, muddy or dusty -- sometimes all three. At night they can be dark and tricky to navigate. Neither cars nor pets (of any sort, on or off leash) are allowed on the campground.

When visiting the campground, please remember that all camp houses and cabins are considered private homes, and should not be entered without an invitation. There are no "public" rooms, and very little air conditioning, so the shade or shelter of the trees may be all that is available for protection from hot or wet weather. The weather is typically warm, but it can be pleasantly cool, quite hot and humid, or wet and stormy -- all in the same week. Mosquitoes are common in the evening.

The campground does not offer guest lodging or meal services. There are no RV facilities. Alcohol, loud or disruptive behavior or unappreciated music is not allowed at the church or on the campground. Lodging and meals are available in Brownsville, about six miles from the church and campground.

Church services are held every day before breakfast, mid-morning and after supper. Additional services are held on Sunday, including memorial and baptismal services. The Saturday and Sunday services can be extremely crowded. The weekend typically includes a large number of invited guests, making this a busy time. If your schedule allows you to visit "during the week" (which means after the weekend) you will find the church much more comfortable and life on the campground much more relaxed.

Dress is typically casual and comfortable, but respectable. People will "dress up" somewhat for Sunday services, but even then ties on men will be rare. Shoes appropriate for walking on dirt and uneven ground will be a wise choice. Children should wear clothes appropriate for play in a natural environment, and no one will mind if they come to church looking as if they are having a very good time.

Campground children understand the rules and limits of the campground, particularly the importance of staying within the campground and away from the roads and highway (on which cars can travel much too fast). Please keep your children safe by ensuring they follow the rules or by actively supervising them.

Please remember that you will be "out in the country" with conditions familiar to us and to country folk but frequently considered "hazards" by others. These include slippery or muddy paths, poorly lighted areas and roads, falling branches and trees, unimproved parking areas, poison oak and ivy, narrow unfenced roads, the occasional errant softball, very limited guest facilities, insects, snakes and more. Any visit, including a visit to any of the structures on the campground, is made at your own risk.

For more information on visiting the Taylor's of Tabernacle camp meeting, please contact a family member, camper or Blaine Cavena at becavena@us.ibm.com.