



**BIG THICKET NATIONAL PRESERVE**  
**FIELD RESEARCH STATION & LEARNING CENTER (FRSLC) &**  
**BRAMMER HOUSE**  
**INFORMATION FOR DAY USE AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS**  
**January 1, 2023**

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This document provides essential information and protocols for your day visit/overnight use of the Saratoga facilities owned by the National Park Service and operated by the Big Thicket Association. Contact the BTA Executive Director if you have additional questions.

Email [director@bigthicket.org](mailto:director@bigthicket.org) or ‘  
409-790-5399 (Office) (832) 858-9446 (Cell)

### **ACCESS/EXITING**

The lock box with the keys to the buildings is located at the far-right side of the FRSLC as you face looking at the building.

To open the numerical tumbler lock line up the four-digit numeric combination you will be provided, push in on the shank and release.

There are two keys-one for the Brammer House and one for the FRSLC.

**The keys are required to always stay at the facility. Do not take them with you away from the research facilities.**

You are required to close all windows and lock the building every time you leave. You must use the key to lock the building, the doors will not automatically lock.

Check all doors to make sure they are closed and secure.

When returning the keys to the lockbox, close the lock and roll the number tumblers a few times so it will not stay on the opening combination.

**Do not leave the keys inside the buildings at the end of your stay, leave in the lockbox.**

Check In and Check Out may include review of the facility for cleanliness, furniture arrangement, and house inventory inspection upon arrival and departure, and is at the discretion of the Big Thicket Association staff.

## **PARKING**

Park in the designated parking area. For staying at the Brammer House you can walk to the left of the metal gate or park in front of the Brammer House by accessing the local street.

Keep your vehicles always locked. It is advisable to never leave items in your vehicle of value or that can easily be seen.

## **FIREARMS**

The facilities are under federal ownership by the National Park Service. Firearms are prohibited.

## **PETS - SERVICE ANIMALS**

**Pets are not allowed. If we find evidence of having a pet your reservation will be cancelled. Any damage or extra cleaning required will be billed to you as a separate charge from your reservation.**

The facilities are under federal ownership by the National Park Service. Under the American Disabilities Act and Texas State Law the rules for service animals apply.

## **SMOKING POLICY**

The facilities are operated as a smoke-free environment. Smoking, including e-cigarettes/vaping materials are prohibited in facilities. Visitors make smoke outside of the facilities in areas greater than 20 feet from any door or operable window of the facility. All smoking materials must be extinguished and disposed of properly in trash containers. Littering with smoking materials is prohibited.

## **FIRE SAFETY**

Open flame items including candles and incense are prohibited.

## **INTERNET USE**

The Field Station and the Brammer House have Wi-Fi available through a mobile hotspot provided by the National Park Service. The connection can be spotty. The password will be posted in the buildings upon your arrival.

## **REFERENCE LIBRARY**

Guests are welcome to use the reference library. All reference materials must remain at the facilities and should not be taken in the field. Please use care in handling older reference materials.

## **KITCHEN USE**

- All items used should be washed, dried, and stored when you leave.
- Put all items away as labeled cupboards and drawers are marked.
- All perishable food and beverages should be removed from the countertops, cabinets, refrigerators, and freezers. The exception is leftover condiments or canned goods may be left if stored properly.
- Check to ensure the stove/oven, and any countertop electrical appliances are off, cooled, and unplugged.

## **KITCHEN LINENS/BATH LINENS/BED LINENS**

There are washers and dryers in both facilities. Guests are responsible for laundering **and drying** their used kitchen linens, bath towels and sheet sets. Detergent and softener are provided for your use.

Do not leave any damp, or wet linens in the machines or the rooms. Washed, dried and folded towels can be left in the bathrooms and bed linens can be left in the dorm bedrooms.

## **TRASH/RECYCLES**

Take home or deposit all trash in the dumpster behind the Field Research Station. Do not leave any trash in waste receptacles inside the building.

Since there is not a local recycling program it would be appreciated if you could take your recycles home with you.

Place clean bags in all waste receptacles. Extra bags are in the wood storage cabinet of the dormitory hallway.

## **OVERALL CLEANUP**

- Turn off all lights, ceiling fans and heaters.
- Place all furniture back to how it was when you checked in.
- Sweep and vacuum all floors. Empty the vacuum canister into the trash to be placed outside. Wipe down all surfaces.
- Clean bathrooms (showers, toilets and sink area).
- Mop floors where needed and rinse mop and bucket thoroughly.
- Check the building for personal clothes and items, especially charge cords for phones and laptops.

## **CLEANING FEE**

Cleaning supplies are provided. The Big Thicket Association reserves the right to inspect the facility for damages and cleanliness. There will be non-refundable cleaning fees: Brammer House \$60.00 and FRS \$140.00 per stay in addition to the normal per person per night fee.

**Furthermore and subject to the discretion of the Big Thicket Association, an additional cleaning fee of \$150 may be invoiced to your party if the facilities are left damaged, in poor condition beyond normal use, or the protocol for exiting the facilities in this document is not followed.**

## **REPAIRS/SUGGESTIONS/FEEDBACK**

The facilities are owned by the National Park Service. The Big Thicket Association operates/manages the buildings and is also a Friend's Group to the Preserve. We work cooperatively as a team to provide a safe, functional, and comfortable site for day-use and overnight accommodations. If you are aware of any item that is damaged and needs repair or replacement please report it. If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the reservation process, or your stay we would welcome your feedback. We hope you enjoy your stay in the Big Thicket!

### **For questions or to report any issues:**

Diane Thompson, Executive Director  
Big Thicket Association  
700 North Street, Suite 79  
Beaumont, TX 77701  
Email: [director@bigthicket.org](mailto:director@bigthicket.org)  
Phone (409) 790-5399 (Office) (832) 858-9446 (Cell)

# **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 911**

**Your Location:**

**Big Thicket National Preserve Field  
Research Station & Learning Center**

**16890 Farm to Market Road 770  
Saratoga, Texas 77585**

**Hardin County**