



**ERVIN
BROWN**
Training Center

VISITOR INFORMATION

Revised January 1, 2025

a Ministry of Desoto-Tate Baptist Association

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Magnifying Jesus *by Ministering to, Mobilizing, Maturing, and Multiplying Churches*

Dennis Landrum
Association Missions Strategist

Dear Group Leader,

You are on your way! Most of your planning and organization should be complete by now and **all that should be left is to spend quality time with your group building relationships and ministering to needs.** This Visitor Information booklet will take all the guesswork out of managing your group while at “the camp.” Here are several things that you should know about while using the EBTC.

To start, if your church is a Southern Baptist Church affiliated with the Desoto-Tate Baptist Association this is your camp! Currently, it does cost \$10 per person per night for your group to come and stay at the camp. However, please remember that maintaining the camp does cost a great deal. **The EBTC relies solely on your donations and contributions to the Ervin Brown Training Center designated fund for upgrades and improvements.** Your funding and support enables us to do ministry. Please join the DTBA in fulfilling its vision for the camp.

Next, I want you to get the most out of your experience while here. **You will be surrounded by 100 acres of fields, lakes, and rolling hills. If you wish, use all 100 acres!** On the main drive you will find 3 motel-style guest rooms, 2 bunk houses, a fully equipped kitchen, ice house, and open air pavilion. You will also have access to the campfire area, basketball goal, playground, volleyball court, and swimming pool (during the summer hours). There are also many large fields that are great for large and small group activities. One of our newest additions to the camp is our multipurpose recreation field. Just remember, your group is responsible for cleaning all facilities you use prior to leaving the campground. For more information on Cleaning Procedures please see pages 14-19.

Continued on next page

Finally, please make sure you check in upon your initial arrival and check out with the Camp Director on your final day. My desire is for these next few days to be an incredible experience for you and your group. ***Hopefully, you will be able to relax and listen intently to what God wants to do for and say to your group.***

Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Blessings

Dennis Landrum

Association Missions Strategist
Desoto-Tate Baptist Association

Desoto-Tate Baptist Association | EBTC

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Reminders for Training Center Reservation Policies

- Reservations for each year will be received only after August 1 of the preceding year for DTBA Churches and November 1 for non-DTBA Churches.
- **The camp must be reserved for a 3-night minimum during the months of May to August** with DTBA churches having first preference. The camp may be reserved for single night use if no one has reserved it within 30 days of the date.
- **Each reservation will require a \$200.00** fully refundable deposit. An additional \$200 non-refundable Facilities Fee deposit is required for non-DTBA churches. The deposit(s) needs to be received by the association office before the reservation is finalized. If the deposit is not received by our office, the event will not be calendared. If churches aren't able to submit the full deposit, please call DTBA office for instructions. (See page 13 concerning fees.)
- Deposits must be made by check payable to the Desoto-Tate Baptist Association from the church or individual related to the reservation.
- Prior to the event, each group or church must check out a key(s) from the associational office in order to have access to the Training Center. The key(s) must be returned to the person responsible for checking the group or church out when departing from the Training Center. You will also receive a "Gate Code" to be used by all group participants entering the camp.

Conditions for deposit being returned:

- **REFUND PROCEDURES: If the center is not going to be used, the group or church has up to ONE WEEK PRIOR to the date of reservation to cancel and receive a full refund.** (Note: the group or church must call to cancel, because *not showing up will forfeit the deposit.*)
- **CHECK IN/OUT: Upon use of the Training Center, the Director or a designated person will check each group in and out at the Training Center.** Approval for the return of the deposit will be given if the Training Center is appropriately cleaned and there is no damage. Group leaders are financially responsible for damage to "the camp". A statement of damages will be sent to sponsoring church or institution.
- Please understand that checking your group out of the camp involves more than simply "returning your key". The camp director or his designee will perform a room-to-room, building-to-building inspection with the group leader before your group leaves from camp.

Training Center Guidelines

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ervin Brown Training Center is located approximately 11 miles west of Hernando, about a half mile from the W. Commerce St. and HWY 301 intersection. Turn right onto Lion Road just before FBC Eudora. The Training Center is located at the end of Lion Rd.

Dining Hall – Seating for 120. Available for your use: six burner gas range, two foot gas griddle, two gas ovens, four burner electric stove and electric oven, large microwave oven, small ten cup coffee maker, forty cup coffee percolator, assorted pots pans, baking sheets and serving utensils.

Bunk Houses – Sleeps 58 persons. Two sleeping and bathroom areas, one side sleeps 30 and the other 28. Guests are required to provide their own bedding.

Motel Units – Sleep up to 11 persons. 4 rooms: #1 & #2 have full size beds and bunk beds each and #3 has 1 twin bed and #4 has two twin beds. Guests are required to provide their own bedding.

Pavilion – Seats 300+ for worship or 275 for eating.

Ice House – Men's restroom, Ladies restroom. The middle room contains the ice machine, freezers, washer, dryer, and all cleaning supplies. You will also find general recreation supplies as well.

Chapel – Used for church services or weddings. Please see page 11 for wedding venue guidelines. Seating for 100 people.

Campfire – Worship area with fire pit and benches that will seat 80 people.

Swimming Pool – In-ground concrete 24X40 pool. No life guard on duty.
Available in season.

Lake – 16-acre lake with fishing and paddleboats. NO swimming permitted.

Multi Purpose Recreation Field

Activity Field – Located across from pool, there is space for most outside games and activities.

Hiking Trail – Starts by walking down road next to manager's house and completely goes around the lake. Takes 30-45 minutes with campers.

Meadows and Fields – Located on the other side of the lake and accessed by the hiking trail. They are full of flowers spring and summer. Hay is cut from the fields twice a year. The Training Center sits on 101 acres of some of the most beautiful land in Desoto and Tate Counties.

Total sleeping capacity is 70 persons.

GUIDELINES (con't)

Facility Usage:

The Ervin Brown Training Center is owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Churches of the Desoto-Tate Baptist Association. It was built for the primary use of these churches. The Camp Director and the Training Center Committee does maintain the right to refuse reservations to any group.

PRE-RETREAT PREPARATION

- There shall be one adult male counselor for every nine (9) boys (or fewer) and one adult female counselor for every nine (9) girls (or fewer). All counselors must be 18 years of age or older.
- The group leader is responsible for informing the campers of their responsibilities while at the Training Center and for making sure the guidelines are followed.
- The group leader/counselors shall not leave campers unattended at any time.
- The group leader is responsible for providing adequate food and care, qualified supervision (leaders and cooks), and appropriate activities for their group.
- **Groups or individuals who use the Training Center are responsible for cleaning the facility before leaving the property.**
- All buildings must be cleaned according to procedures posted in that building and included in this book before check out can take place. The cleaning procedures are posted in a clear location in every building, as well as in this information packet. If any procedure is unclear, ask for clarification during your check-in process.
- Group leaders are financially responsible for damage to the Training Center. A statement of damages will be sent to sponsoring church or institution.
- Upon arrival at the Training Center, it is requested that all vehicles will remained parked. No person is allowed to ride on the outside of a vehicle. All traffic rules apply on the Training Center grounds. All vehicles must stay on the established roads or paths unless authorized by the Camp Director.

- Use of ATVs, motorcycles, mopeds, scooters, etc. are not permitted.
- No smoking is allowed in buildings or on the grounds. The EBTC is a tobacco-free property.
- Dress shall be modest at all times, in keeping with Christian standards.
- Drugs, alcoholic beverages, or anyone under the influence of either will not be tolerated on the grounds.
- No fireworks or firearms will be allowed anywhere on the grounds.
- Pranks should be kept to a minimum. Pranks can completely destroy the spiritual tone set for your retreat. *If your group's most memorable moment from the retreat is not a spiritual one, your retreat was a failure.*
- Water balloons, shaving cream, or silly-string fights must be OUTSIDE, away from the buildings, and be supervised by the group leaders.
- Pets are not allowed unless accompanying as a physical need. **No pets are allowed inside the facilities.**
- Each person is responsible for bringing their own linens and bathroom accessories. You will need single bed sheets for your bed in units #1 and #2. The beds in motel #4 are Queen size.
- Moving furniture is not allowed without permission of the Camp Director.
- The Desoto-Tate Baptist Association assumes no responsibility or liability for any injuries to property or person(s). Anyone using the property agrees to release the association from any and all liability of injury to the person(s) or to personal property.

FOOD SERVICE

- All food service items (meals and snacks) will be purchased and distributed by the Group. All groups using the facilities must also provide: paper towels, napkins, paper plates, plastic eating utensils, and plenty of garbage bags.
- All cooking equipment, implements and utensils owned by the Training Center are there for your use. Please only take home what you brought with you.
- Groups shall use safe food-handling and preparation practices at all times.
- No food or drink is allowed in the bunkhouse or guest rooms.
- It may be a good idea to make a menu with your cook a week prior to your event, taking into consideration persons in your group that have food allergies.

SWIMMING POOL

- All posted rules must be followed. All posted rules are to be read and discussed with all children before the first swim time. Rules are posted at the front gate of pool.
- Training Center does not provide a lifeguard. Each group must provide a Red Cross certified lifeguard if required by church insurance policy or required by state regulations.
- Swimming is allowed only in the pool, and only during scheduled times.
- All groups using the pool must be accompanied by adult leaders, one adult (over 18) for every ten children.
- Swimwear shall be worn while using the pool. No un-hemmed garments or cutoffs will be allowed in the pool because loose threads, frayed ends, etc. clog the filtering system.
- Girls must wear a T-shirt over two-piece swim suits.
- Swimsuits are to be worn only for swimming activities.
- Pool is off-limits when closed for season. (i.e late fall, winter, early spring).

KAYAK BOATING

- Kayaks will be used only in the daylight hours.
- Group leader is responsible for making sure that all rules are followed. The rules are posted at the location of the kayaks.
- Kayaks can only be used with adult supervision.

- When using the kayaks, everyone (NO matter what age) **must at all times wear a life jacket** (Personal Flotation Device/PFD). *Local and state wildlife officials frequently patrol our facility. Tickets will be written for PFD violations. Group leader will be held responsible for allowing underage violations.*
- Ropes with buoys mark the boundary for the paddleboats. The kayaks are never to cross the boundary ropes at any time.

FISHING

- Only the retreat group that has reserved the Training Center has fishing privileges and only during their reservation time.
- Fishing licenses are not required to fish on our private lake.
- Outboard motors are not allowed on the lake; only paddles and trolling motors can be used. All persons fishing from a boat must have their own life jacket/PFD (Personal Flotation Device) and must wear them while on the water. Local and state wildlife officials frequently patrol our facility. Tickets will be written for PFD violations.

CURFEW

There is no designated curfew time, but groups are highly encouraged to keep all loud noise and music limited after 10:30PM. Police officers who are called by neighbors of the Training Center will be directed to the group leader who will be either warned or charged with disturbing the peace.

BANNERS & POSTERS

All banners and posters should be approved through the Training Center Manager and hung with masking tape or tacks (unless other arrangements have been made). These items should be removed at the end of the retreat.

CAMP FIRES

Campfires are to be built only in the fire pit in the campfire area. The campfire area has seating for 80 people. Adult supervision is required. All fires must be put out and not left to burn unattended.

ICE

Ice is available in the middle room of the ice house.

CHAPEL WEDDING REGULATIONS

- 1. The couple getting married must be a member of the church in “good standing” and to be in “good standing” we at EBTC would go on the recommendation of the pastor of the couple getting married.
- 2. Your pastor will sign off on your wedding being performed at EBTC.
- 3. The Associational Missions Strategist, or in his absence the Administrative Team, will approve the pastor (man) performing the wedding.
- 4. The church that is performing the wedding must adhere to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.
- 5. If anyone would to have a wedding on the grounds at EBTC, the fee is \$5,000.
- 6. The EBTC will not be responsible for the setting up or tearing down of any table or chairs. The wedding party is responsible for all clean up.

TELEPHONES

Most major cell phone companies have good signal strength on campus.

LOCAL SERVICES

Local services are limited. Only one gas station is nearby; it has some food items, fishing supplies and etc. It closes most nights at 10:00PM and opens at 4:30AM. Hernando is the nearest town, 11 miles away. The closest Wal-Mart is 12 1/2 miles. Both are east on W. Commerce Street.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

These include:

- 1. Desoto County Sheriff
- 2. Eudora Fire Department
- 3. Ambulance service

All emergency services are 1/2 mile from camp and can be at the Training Center within a couple of minutes.

For all emergency numbers dial911

If calling from a cell phone, specify that you are in Desoto County.

Tell the dispatcher that your location is 9664 W. Commerce Street at the Training Center behind Eudora Baptist Church.

Please notify the Training Center Manager of all accidents.

EBTC RESERVATIONS

FOR DTBA CHURCHES

If you would like to reserve the EBTC, please contact the office for more information. Please be advised the Training Center fills up pretty quickly especially for high priority dates. To ensure your date make plans now to reserve the EBTC for your outing. You can begin making your reservations for the following year August 1.

FOR NON-DTBA CHURCHES

Our policy allows for Southern Baptist Churches from other areas of our region and country to use the Ervin Brown Training Center. This includes all areas inside and outside Desoto and Tate Counties.

We allow these churches to use the EBTC on a first come first serve basis. They, like DTBA churches, will be charged for their usage. DTBA churches will still have first priority as they will given a two-month window to have complete access to the EBTC calendar. The EBTC will also allow para church organizations to use the facilities that are evangelical and likeminded in Baptist doctrine. All para church organizations will be approved by the EBTC Ministry Team for approval or denial. Reservations for the following year can be made starting November 1.

Additionally, churches and ministries outside the Southern Baptist Faith may utilize the Ervin Brown Training Center upon paying the required deposits and fees. They will also provide signed acknowledgment of their adherence to our Articles of Belief and Conduct.

FEES

***DTBA CHURCHES** - are able to utilize the EBTC for \$50 per day usage or \$10 per person for overnight stays. Children 3 years or younger will not be charged the per person fee. We do ask for a refundable \$200 security deposit to cover any damages or messes left by groups. Should the property be left clean with no damages, the \$200 will be returned.

\$200 Refundable Security Deposit - must be sent in for the camp to be reserved. This security deposit will be returned to the church/Christian organization once the facilities are cleaned and approval is given by the EBTC Director.

\$50 per day or **\$10** per person per night for overnight stays.

***NON-DTBA CHURCHES** - because of the cost of upkeep, maintenance, staffing, etc we do have a fee for usage. The fees for non-DTBA Churches are as follows:

\$200 Refundable Security Deposit - must be sent in for the camp to be reserved. This security deposit will be returned to the church/Christian organization once the facilities are cleaned and approval is given by the EBTC Director.

\$200 Non-refundable Facilities Fee - a flat fee for usage of the EBTC and all its amenities.

\$15 per person per night fee - all groups must check out by 10AM in order to avoid charges for the full day.

\$100 per day usage (not subject to the Non-Refundable Facilities Fee if reserved only one day)

REFUND PROCEDURES: *If the center is not going to be used, the group or church has up to ONE WEEK PRIOR to the date of reservation to cancel and receive a full refund. (Note: the group or church must call to cancel, because **not showing up will forfeit the deposit.)***

DTBA WEBSITE

EBTC ON THE WEB—Should you need more information concerning the EBTC you can access it on our website. The address is www.desototate.org. You will find lots of helpful information on the site.



CLEANING PROCEDURES MOTEL UNITS

- _____ - Pick up all trash and place in trash bags or cans.
- _____ - Sweep the bathroom floors.
- _____ - Clean the showers, sinks and toilets using the cleaning supplies found under the sink.
- _____ - Wet-mop the bathroom floors.
- _____ - Sweep and mop each guest room used. (Mop, bucket and bleach can be found in the ice room of the bath house.)
- _____ - Make up each bed, notify the Camp Manager about dirty or damaged spreads, blankets, or pillows.
- _____ - Be sure all trash and trash bags are placed in the blue bins located outside next to the kitchen.
- _____ - Turn off all lights and the AC/Heat units.
- _____ - Close and lock all windows and doors.
- _____ - Check out through the Camp Manager or designated person before leaving Camp.
- _____ - Leave the keys in the drop box of the Associational Office. If the Associational Office is open, then give them to the personnel.



CLEANING PROCEDURES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BUNKHOUSE UNITS

- _____ - Pick up all trash and place in trash bags or cans.
- _____ - Sweep the bathroom floors.
- _____ - Clean the showers, sinks and toilets using the cleaning supplies found in the bathhouse/ice room. Also, please wipe down all showers.
- _____ - Wet-mop the bathroom floors.
- _____ - Mop the room floors. (Mop, bucket and bleach can be found in the ice room of the bath house.)
- _____ - Notify the Camp Manager of damaged mattresses or beds.
- _____ - Be sure all trash and trash bags are placed in the blue bins located outside next to the kitchen.
- _____ - Turn all lights off. Make sure the AC is up or the Heat is down.
- _____ - Close and lock all windows and doors.
- _____ - Check out through the Camp Manager or designated person before leaving Camp. A walk-through inspection with you will follow.
- _____ - Leave the keys in the drop box of the Associational Office. If the Associational Office is open, then give them to the personnel.



CLEANING PROCEDURES KITCHEN

- _____ - Clean all tables, chairs and countertops with a wet towel and disinfectant.
- _____ - Fold and place all chairs and tables back into original positions.
- _____ - Wash and dry all utensils that were used and place them in the proper drawers or cabinets.
- _____ - Pick up all trash and place it in trash bags or trash cans. Place the bags of trash in the big blue trash cans outside.
- _____ - Sweep the entire floor. Sweep up dirt/dust or sweep it outside to insure the floor is clean for mopping.
- _____ - Wet mop entire floor using one cup of bleach to one bucket of water for sanitation. (Mop, bucket and bleach can be found in the ice room of the bath house.)
- _____ - When finished, wash out mop and bucket and return them to the ice room.
- _____ - Be sure all trash and trash bags are placed in the blue bins located outside the kitchen.
- _____ - Turn off all lights and set the thermostat (during summer use: To Highest Setting /during winter use: To Lowest Setting.)
- _____ - Close and lock all windows and doors.
- _____ - Check out through the Camp Manager or Associational Representative before leaving camp.
- _____ - Leave the keys in the drop box of the Associational Office. If the Associational Office is open, then give them to the personnel.



CLEANING PROCEDURES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BATH HOUSE

- _____ - Pick up all trash and place in trash bags or cans.
- _____ - Sweep the bathroom floors.
- _____ - Clean the toilets using the cleaning supplies found in the bath house/ice room. Also, please wipe down the counters and sinks.
- _____ - Wet-mop the bathroom floors.
- _____ - Be sure all trash and trash bags are placed in the blue bins located outside next to the kitchen.
- _____ - Turn all lights off.
- _____ - Close and lock all windows and doors.
- _____ - Check out through the Camp Manager or designated person before leaving Camp. A walk-through inspection with you will follow.
- _____ - Leave the keys in the drop box of the Associational Office. If the Associational Office is open, then give them to the personnel.



CLEANING PROCEDURES PAVILION

- _____ - Pick up all trash and place in trash bags or cans.
- _____ - Sweep pavilion floor to make sure there is no trash left.
- _____ - Please return all tables and chairs to their appropriate places.
- _____ - Be sure all trash and trash bags are placed in the blue bins located outside next to the kitchen.
- _____ - Turn all lights off.
- _____ - Check out through the Camp Manager or designated person before leaving Camp. A walk-through inspection with you will follow.
- _____ - Leave the keys in the drop box of the Associational Office. If the Associational Office is open, then give them to the personnel.



CLEANING PROCEDURES RECREATION AREAS

- _____ - Pick up all trash left outside and place in trash bags or cans.
- _____ - If kayaks were used please make sure they are turned right side up and life jackets are placed in the storage container.
- _____ - Please make sure all athletic balls and equipment are picked up and placed in the middle storage room.

The Ervin Brown Training Center

In 1967, the Northwest Baptist Association began a camp/retreat program at Camp Bluff Springs, located outside of Oxford, Mississippi. The Association used these facilities until 1979. Because of distance and limited facilities, a decision was made in 1977 to begin looking for a site in the Associational area. On June 11, 1981, the Northwest Baptist Association purchased one hundred thirteen acres near Eudora for \$224,000. The facility was named in honor of Rev. Ervin Brown, Director of Missions for thirty years. Bro. Ervin Brown had the vision for a ministry facility in which to train church leaders and offer camps/retreats.

The Training Center has 101.94 acres of land today with a beautiful 16 -acre lake. The property is about a 30-to 40-minute drive from any church in the association. All facilities and equipment are debt-free. The facilities include a large screen pavilion, ice house, bunkhouse, motel unit, dining hall, swimming pool, two small portable buildings, maintenance building, Chapel, and the manager's home.

The screen pavilion is 40'x72' and has 41 folding tables along with 195 folding chairs. The ice house has two restrooms and a separate storage room containing the ice machine, freezers, refrigerators, washer, dryer, and all cleaning supplies. The building is heated by gas space heaters located in each room. The bunkhouse is 30'x60' and is divided into two rooms, which accommodate a total of 56 campers in the comfort of gas heat and air conditioning. The 14'x70' guest unit has three separate rooms, each equipped with either bunk bed or queen beds, a bathroom, and heating/cooling combination wall units. The 20'x68' dining hall has full kitchen facilities with oven, stove, sink, refrigerator, cabinets and drawers containing cooking utensils, silverware and serving pieces. The dining hall has 18 folding tables and 100 folding chairs and is equipped with central heat and air conditioning. A large barbeque pit is located between the dining hall and bunkhouse. The swimming pool is an in ground unit. Swimming is allowed only in the pool, not in the lake.

The two small portable buildings contain supplies and equipment for the GA and RA programs. Equipment and tools for the Training Center are stored in the maintenance building. For safety reasons, no one is allowed in this building unless authorized by the Camp Director.

Located at the entrance to the Training Center is the home in which the Association Missions Strategist and his family live. Admission to his home is by invitation only. The lake is available to scheduled groups for fishing, picnicking, and paddle boating.

The Training Center is available year round. The retreats can consist of children, youth, Sunday school classes, church staff, WMU/Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, and Senior Adult groups.

visit us online at desototate.org



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEBSITE

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M-5 STRATEGY OF THE DTBA

**MAGNIFYING JESUS BY MINISTERING TO, MATURING,
MOBILIZING AND MULTIPLYING CHURCHES**



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Revised January 1, 2025

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