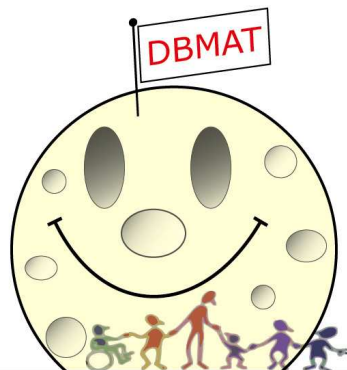


CONFERENCE EDITION, 2012

DBMAT: "A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON"



A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON

Help us with some house cleaning.....

We are currently in the process of updating the DBMAT Membership Roster and Listserv so that we can better communicate with our members. Please take a few minutes to provide Christine Givens, our Membership Chair, with your current information. If you have moved, changed phone numbers - home or cell - changed email address, etc. we need your current information. Please send an email to Christine at givens3@sbcglobal.net or send your information via mail to 22910 Briarhorn Dr., Spring, TX. 77389. Please include your name, complete mailing address, phone numbers and email address.

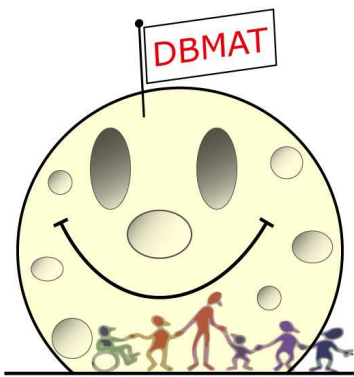
Also, DBMAT dues are \$10. per year for both Regular and Associate Members.

Remember, 2013 will be another legislative year and our kids are depending on all of us to be informed on the issues that have the potential to affect their future. The DBMAT Listserv is a convenient way to communicate the issues quickly and it provides the membership the opportunity to communicate with each other on all matters relating to deafblindness. Don't be left out, please send your updated information as soon as possible.

Deadline to receive Registration Forms and Camper Vital Statistic Forms by DBMAT is September 3, 2012.

Questions? Call Christine: 281-370-8195

Positive Connection: 432-264-6780 Rosa: 915-449-8141 (Spanish Speaking)



A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON

CONFERENCE EDITION, 2012

DBMAT: "A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON"

39th Annual Family Conference

~ October 12-14, 2012 ~

Camp John Marc

DBMAT is pleased to have Dr. Linda Mamer as our guest speaker during the 39th Annual Family Conference. She is currently working at the British Columbia Provincial Outreach Program for Individuals with Deaf-blindness as a Resource Consultant, traveling throughout the province consulting with schools that have students with deaf-blindness. In addition, she consults with Supported [Independent Living Residences for adults](#) with congenital deaf-blindness. She is also a teacher and consultant in the areas of blindness, low vision, deafness/hard of hearing, and multiple disabilities.

She teaches university and [college courses](#) for interveners for children who are deaf-blind, educational assistants, preschool workers, teachers, and counsellors across Canada and in the United States.

~~Things to Consider Before You Register~~

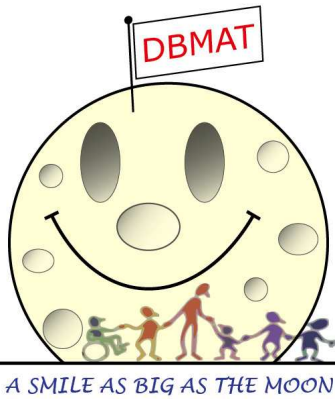
We all have the best of intentions when making plans to attend an event such as our conference. Here are some things we ask you to keep in mind:

1. **REGISTER EARLY!!!!**
2. Contact your DARS case manager about assistance for fees and travel expenses.
3. If you need to cancel, please call Christine **IMMEDIATELY!**
We understand things unexpectedly come up. You help us by telling us as soon as you can so we can adjust meals, sleeping arrangements, and day care needs. We also may be able to allow another family to attend in your place and they will need as much time to prepare as possible.
4. **REGISTER EARLY!!!!**
5. Get ready to come and have fun!
6. Don't miss the chance to have fun, and learn from our wonderful speakers!!
7. **REGISTER EARLY!!!!**

Want to know how to become a member of DBMAT? To do so, email Christine Givens at the following address: givens3@sbcglobal.net

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.



CONFERENCE EDITION, 2012
DBMAT: "A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON"

39th Annual Family Conference
 ~ October 12-14, 2012 ~
 Camp John Marc

NOTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

This weekend is co-sponsored by the Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT), Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS-DBS) and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Deafblind Outreach. DBMAT appreciates this support of families. The DBMAT Conference Planning Committee is diligently working to bring about a relaxing, fun-filled, learning weekend for all of our conference participants in a pleasant rustic environment. This conference is designed for families of children & adults who are deafblind with multiple disabilities and the professionals who serve them.

*Please read all the enclosed information, fill out and return all necessary forms by September 3rd, 2012 to our Conference Registrar:
 Christine Givens 22910 Briarhorn Dr., Spring, TX. 77389*

If your child/family member is a client of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, (DARS), Division for Blind Services, please contact their Program Specialist prior to registration.

Conference contact numbers are: Christine: 281-370-8195
 Positive Connections Line: 432-264-6780 Rosa: 915-449-8141 (Spanish Speaking)

Business Meeting

DBMAT's Annual General Membership and election meeting will be held during this conference weekend on Sunday at Camp John Marc. According to DBMAT's by-laws, the DBMAT general members should be notified in advance of the general membership meeting about the nominees for the upcoming Board of Director vacancies. The Nominating Committee, appointed by your president, presents the following nominees for the 2012-2014 terms:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Vice President: Melanie Knapp | Member-At-Large: Gina Sotiropoulos |
| Secretary: Denise Sewell | Member-At-Large: Christine Givens |
| Member-At-Large: Robbie Caldwell | Member-At-Large: Paul Daley (1 Yr.) |



Other nominations from the floor will be accepted until 5:00 PM on the Saturday before elections. A short description of all nominees' relevant experience will be presented prior to voting. Only paid members of DBMAT can vote. So become a member today!!

DBMAT Vision: Quality intervener services are provided to all deafblind individuals lifelong.

Method: DBMAT will work with Texas State Agencies and schools to increase the availability of skilled intervener services.

Some of the activities of DBMAT are supported in part by the Hilton-Perkins Program of the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA. The Hilton-Perkins Program is funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation of Reno, NV. DBMAT appreciates this support.

If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.

For Your Information

(Please read carefully and keep for reference)



DBMAT Awards:

Each year, DBMAT is pleased to recognize outstanding members with the following awards.

Christian Knapp, The Great Motivator Award - awarded to a deafblind individual

Everett Bryan Award - awarded to a professional who serves in/with deafblindness.

Olivia Cruz Award - awarded to a family who has done a lot for deafblindness.

Please make your nominations by **September 10, 2012**. To do so, contact **Cyndi Hunley (281) 821-9005** or cell: **832-721-0981**, chunley@aol.com; **Gina Sotiropoulos (713) 290-8687** ginagale62@sbcglobal.net; **Jo Anne Priddy (409) 781-5683** priddyjoa@yahoo.com; or **Jenny Lace (512) 206-9389** or home **(512) 266-8862**, jennylace@tsbvi.edu.



IMPORTANT: Forms

Pre-registration by the deadline of September 3rd, 2012 is required in order to attend this learning weekend. The **Conference Registration Form** must be filled out by both the families and the professionals who plan to attend. **The Camper Vital Statistic Form must be filled out on both sides** by families for each child/family member (disabled & siblings) you plan to bring and have listed on the registration form. (Please make copies of this form, front & back, for all your campers.) All campers must be accompanied by a family member or guardian. If your child/family member is a client of DARS or DBS, please clear your travel reimbursement & registration fee with their Program Specialist before registering for the conference. Note: If you plan to bring a nurse, attendant, or any individual who is not a family member to care for your disabled child/family member during the weekend, please be sure to include the individual's name and phone number on the DBMAT Camper Vital Statistic Form. A background check is required on anyone caring for your child/family member who is not a family member.

On-Site Check-In

Onsite check-in is required on Friday Night, between 6 - 10 P.M., for all participants planning to stay on the campgrounds. In order for families to complete the intake process, you must plan to arrive on site after 6 P.M. and prior to 10 P.M. In consideration for the other families, check-in volunteers, childcare workers and nurse, this ruling must be courteously followed. There will be a sandwich/snack available for everyone between these hours. *****Please note child care will not be available until 8p.m.***** This will allow all volunteers to check in and be available for campers.

Accommodations

Camp John Marc, located at Morgan near Meridian, Texas, is a lovely campsite with air-conditioned cabins. Plan to share the ten-bed cabin with others. We try our best to match cabin occupancy comfortably for all participants. If you choose to stay elsewhere, your room accommodations are at your own expense. Rooms, meals and childcare are furnished onsite for families. Families are encouraged to opt for the 24-hour respite care available. Rooms and meals are provided to professional participants onsite.



If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.

Creature Comfort

Although there are sleeping cabins with A/C, this is a campsite! Camp John Marc is accessible with a single designated vehicle parking area. Drop-off area is available in the front of the main buildings. There is no outdoor lighting ~ **please bring flashlights to maneuver after dark.** Bring pillows, sheets, blankets, towels, face cloths, soap, shampoo, casual clothing and closed-toe shoes for yourself and each of your family members. (**Pack each camper's belongings separately.**) Bring an alarm clock for your awakening. Shower sign-up sheets will be available in each adult cabin. We start our activities **early** each morning with a family & friends breakfast. Bring any other special items you or your campers' need, particularly their medications and instructions, toys, napping stuff, etc.



Art Exhibit - "Open to All"

The ART Exhibit is open to everyone who would like to enter! It is time to pull out those creative ideas or pieces you have in whatever art form and DISPLAY them for others to experience. Whether the form: PAINT, SCULPT, KNIT, CROCHET, MOSAIC, DRAW, OR BUILD YOUR ART.....WE WANT IT! All art will be displayed Saturday in the Silo Foyer Your creations will also be showcased and you can donate your exhibits to the LIVE AUCTION on Saturday night, if desired, otherwise please be responsible for taking it home.

AUCTIONS ~ Silent and Live

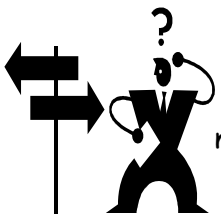
Now is the time to contact your local merchants, neighbors, co-workers, school chums, friends and family to request donations of new and good used items for our annual auction fund-raisers. Those that have attended these events with us before know there will be many great bargains available for purchase and bidding. Please assist us by **gathering and bringing** several items with you to donate to our auctions. DBMAT appreciates your support. Fun for everyone!

Kid Kamp/Childcare

While participating in the conference, parents & guardians are encouraged to place all their children/family members with our child care workers for fun activities, excitement and care throughout the conference activity time. Parents can begin checking in campers at 6pm on Friday. Childcare is available from 8pm Friday until after lunch on Sunday afternoon.

Three options are available:

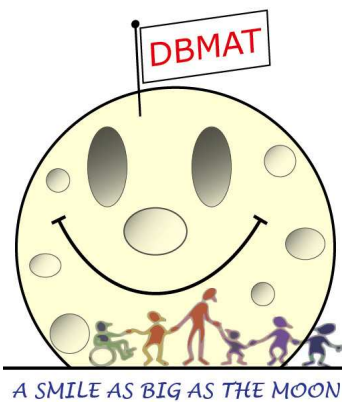
1. **Infant Day Care** - Infants and children 3 years or younger have supervised activities with toys and outdoor fun. Children will sleep with their parents/guardian in their assigned cabins.
2. **Day Activity Kid Kamp** - 4 years and older participate in group activities such as ropes challenge course, arts and crafts, cooking, nature walk and fishing. Campers will be cared for during conference activities and will sleep with their parents/guardian in their assigned cabins.
3. **24 hour Kid Kamp** - 4 years and older participate in group activities and stay over-night with peers. Girls and boys sleep in separate cabins and are supervised by adults. The cabins for Kid Kamp are within walking distance of the adult cabins.



Direction Signs

Camp John Marc has posted signs along the way from Morgan. Morgan is about 7 miles north of Meridian and 30.9 miles south of Cleburne on Texas Highway 174. DBMAT signs are also posted on these country roads. A detailed map is included in this Newsletter.

If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.



CONFERENCE EDITION, 2012

DBMAT: "A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON"

39th Annual Family Conference
 ~ October 12-14, 2012 ~
 Camp John Marc

Agenda at a Glance

-Tentative-

Friday: Arrival & Check-in

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast (served in meeting hall for Adults)	Adults eat in Meeting Hall
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome & Introduction of Agency's represented	Paul Welch & Steve Schoen , DBMAT Representatives of the DADS Medicaid Waivers, TSBVI Outreach, HKNC National Center, DARS.
9:00 – 10:15	Keynote Presentation	Linda Mamer
10:15 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Keynote Presentation Continued...	Linda Mamer
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00	Intervener update	Melanie/Vivecca
2:00 – 3:00	Agency updates	
3:00 – 4:00	Keynote Presentation/Behavior	David Wiley
4:00 – 4:15	Break	
4:15 – 5:00	Keynote Presentation Continued...	David Wiley
5:00 – 6:00	Dinner	Finalize Silent Auction Bids!!
6:00 – 7:00	Awards, Com. Updates, Free time	
7:00 - TBD	DBMAT – Family Fun Activities	(In the Barn-Covered Pavilion)
8:00 - TBD	Live Auction	(In the Saddle Room)

Sunday:

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast (served in meeting hall for Adults)	Meet Your Neighbor –Texas Style
8:30 – 9:15	DBMAT Business Meeting	DBMAT Board Officers with support from TSBVI and DBS
9:15 – 9:30	Break	
9:30 – 10:30	Keynote Presentation	Linda Mamer
10:30 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 11:30	DADS Update	DADS
11:30 – 12:00	Closing Remarks	Paul Welch and Steve Schoen
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch & Depart	

Camp John Marc's phone # is (254) 635-8811. See you there in October!

If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.

Camp John Marc's phone # is (254) 635-8811. See you there in October!

DBMAT: "A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON"

39th Annual Family Conference & Workshop

~ October 12-14, 2012~

REGISTRATION FORM

~ Please print clearly in ink all information that applies ~

Family Information:

Adult Names _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Mobil Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Name of Camper with Disabilities _____ Age _____ Sex _____

Visually Impaired Hearing Impaired Other _____

Name(s) of conditions/syndromes _____ T-Shirt Size _____

These Siblings will also attend:

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ T-Shirt Size _____

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____ T-Shirt Size _____

(T-shirts are sized: **Child** XS, S, M, L or **Adult** S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)

Sleeping Arrangements:

Yes! I / We will be using the sleeping facilities at Camp John Marc.

No, I / We will be staying off the camp site at my / our own expense.

As an adult, I have a serious sleep anomaly or dysfunction which might disturb others or that requires medical observation by the nurse.

***From 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. at Friday night check-in, the following activities will take place:** On Site Check-In, Cabin Assignments, Conference Packet Pick-up, Child Care Introduction, Sandwich/Snack, and Social Time with others. (*We encourage you to come in on Friday Night and you must arrive prior to 10 P.M.*)*

I / We plan to arrive at _____ (P.M./A.M.) on _____.

Number of people for meals: Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____

Be sure to fill out the other side of this form, too. ⇨

If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.

REGISTRATION FORM -Page 2-

Assistance Needed:

As a family member, I request (please check one of the following):

- Spanish Interpreter
- Sign Language Interpreter
- No Interpreter is needed for our family

- As a family member, I request mileage reimbursement for travel.

- As a professional interested in participating in the conference activities, I understand that childcare/ travel reimbursement are for families who have members with disabilities. I will be responsible for my registration (DBMAT) and my own room and board (Camp John Marc cost is \$115 stay on site/or hotel at their rate plus \$90 to Camp John Marc for meals and use of facilities).

Registration Information:

<i>Registration Fees</i>	<i># People</i>	<i>\$ Amount</i>
\$ 30.00 per each immediate family member		
\$ 50.00 per each extended family member		
\$ 30.00 per professional		
<i>Totals</i>		

- NOTE:* If you have an open case with DBS, please contact your Program Specialist for financial assistance immediately. Our DBS Program Specialist is: _____
- Phone # _____

NOTE: We encourage all members to attend. If other assistance is not available, limited scholarships are available for direct family members upon determination of eligibility. For more information, contact DBMAT Positive Connection Line at 432-264-6780.

Method of Payment:

- Check - Please make checks payable to DBMAT.
- State is Covering Expenses

Return all forms with registration fee to:

Christine Givens-DBMAT Conference 22910 Briarhorn Dr., Spring, TX. 77389

Registration Deadline Is September 3rd, 2012

Space is limited so send in your registration early!

DBMAT CAMPER VITAL STATISTIC FORM
Information for Child Care Workers

Please make as many **copies** as you need and fill out **both** sides of this form for **each** camper (disabled and siblings) you have registered as attending our family weekend **with** you. **Each camper** must have pertinent information submitted to us by September 3, 2012 to ensure an enjoyable time for all.

Please Print Clearly In Ink:

Parent(s) Name(s) _____ (Accompanying camper/attending conference)

Contact Number _____ (if more information on your child is needed)

Camper's Name _____ **Age** _____

Please check one of the following:

Disabled

Sibling

Please check one of the following:

Male

Female

Please check one of the following:

Infant/Toddler Day Care

Infant and children 3 years or younger have supervised activities with toys and outdoor fun. Children will sleep with their parents/guardian in their assigned cabins.

Day Activity Kid Kamp

4 years and older participate in group activities such as ropes challenge course, arts and crafts, cooking, nature walk and fishing. Campers will be cared for during the conference activity and will sleep with their parents/guardian in their assigned cabin.

24 hour Kid Kamp

4 years and older participate in group activities and stay over-night with peers. Girls and boys sleep in separate cabins and are supervised by adults. The cabins for Kid Kamp are within walking distance of the adult cabins.

Please check only if applicable:

This camper who is disabled will participate in the group activities and will have a **nurse/attendant/individual** who will care for him/her. Please provide name and phone number.

Please check one of the following:

Yes ! This camper can participate in all camper activities.

No ! This camper cannot participate in the following activities: _____

Please check all that apply. My camper will have with him/her:

Wheelchair/stroller

Cane

Communication Device

Hearing Aid

Nebulizer

Other _____

Glasses

Suction Machine

Other _____

Be sure to fill out the other side of this form, too. ⇔

If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.

DBMAT CAMPER VITAL STATISTIC FORM -Page 2-

Please provide all information about **each medication** this camper takes:
Please bring medication in the prescribed bottles/containers with correct instructions.

Name of Medication	Dosage Given	Time Given	Special Instructions

Please list **every** physical, medical, and mental condition of this camper (include recent surgeries):

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1.) _____ | 4.) _____ |
| 2.) _____ | 5.) _____ |
| 3.) _____ | 6.) _____ |

To assist this camper in enjoying the weekend, I / We offer the following suggestions & hints:

Is there ***anything*** else we should know about this camper?

If there is a major problem/occurrence regarding this camper, please seek me / us out at the meeting, activity or cabin site for assistance. _____ (*Initial*)

PLEASE CHECK IF CHILD/FAMILY MEMBER is IN: CLASS____ HCS____ DB WAIVER____

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

I / We give permission for this child/family member to participate in all camper/respice activities, unless otherwise noted on this form, and do hereby release Camp John Marc, DBMAT, and the conference sponsors from any and all liabilities during this weekend.

_____	_____
(signed)	(dated)

I / We give permission to DBMAT to take photos/videos of my / our family's activities, especially my/our child/family member, during this weekend and to use our names, if appropriate, for positive publicity/advocacy purposes.

_____	_____
(signed)	(dated)

All information is otherwise confidential and is held only for the purposes described.

If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.

Please carry this map with you for reference as you travel.

Camp John Marcs' ph # is (254) 635-8811.

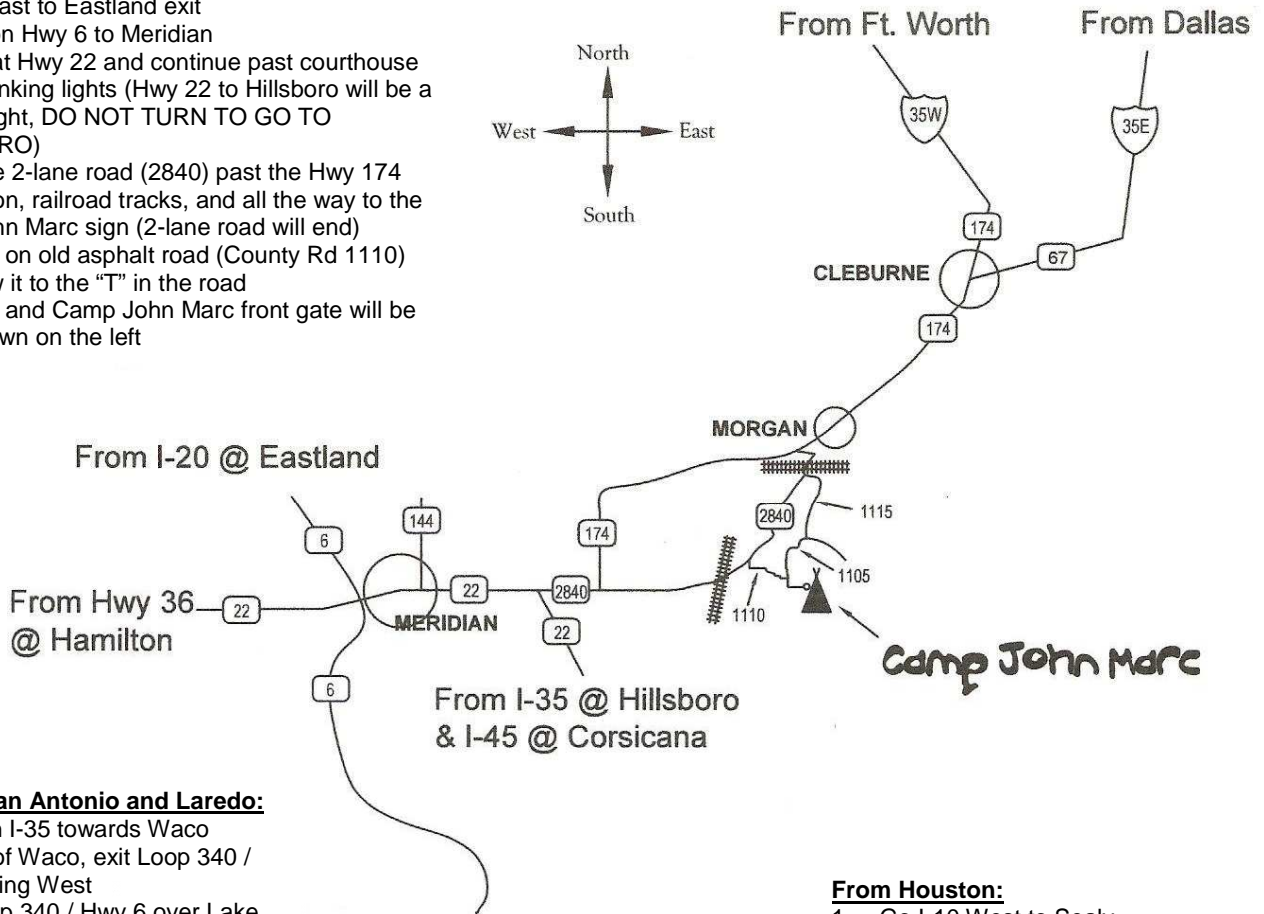
CAMP JOHN MARC

3247 County Road 1105 Meridian, Texas 76665

Please be sure to follow the directions provided on the attached maps. **Do not rely on GPS or Mapquest – they will NOT get you to Camp!!!** Note: If you are traveling from the **Dallas/Fort Worth area**, please do not enter Camp John Marc via Morgan. Follow the attached map and enter at Meridian. Camp John Marc advises all families to access the camp through Meridian, as the road in Morgan has been washed out several times and has not been repaired. Save your vehicle, enter through

From Abilene, Midland and El Paso:

1. Go I-20 East to Eastland exit
2. Go right on Hwy 6 to Meridian
3. Turn left at Hwy 22 and continue past courthouse and all blinking lights (Hwy 22 to Hillsboro will be a blinking light, **DO NOT TURN TO GO TO HILLSBORO**)
4. Follow the 2-lane road (2840) past the Hwy 174 intersection, railroad tracks, and all the way to the Camp John Marc sign (2-lane road will end)
5. Turn right on old asphalt road (County Rd 1110) and follow it to the "T" in the road
6. Turn right and Camp John Marc front gate will be further down on the left



From Austin, San Antonio and Laredo:

1. Go North on I-35 towards Waco
2. Just South of Waco, exit Loop 340 / Hwy 6 heading West
3. Stay on Loop 340 / Hwy 6 over Lake Waco and continue Hwy 6 to Meridian
4. Turn right on Hwy 22 to Meridian and continue past courthouse and all blinking lights (Hwy 22 to Hillsboro will be a blinking light, **DO NOT TURN TO GO TO HILLSBORO**)
5. Follow the 2-lane road (2840) past the Hwy 174 intersection, railroad tracks, and all the way to the Camp John Marc sign (2-lane road will end)
6. Turn right on old asphalt road (County Rd 1110) and follow it to the "T" in the road
7. Turn right and Camp John Marc front gate will be further down on the left

From Waco, Bryan, & Hwy 290 @ Hempstead

Austin Option:

1. Take 183 North out of Austin. .
2. When 183 hits 281 follow San Antonio directions below.

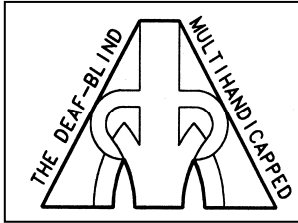
San Antonio Option:

1. Go 281 to Hamilton.
2. Turn right onto Hwy 22.
3. Stay on 22 to Meridian

From Houston:

1. Go I-10 West to Sealy
2. Turn North on Hwy 36 to Hamilton
3. Turn right on Hwy 22 to Meridian and continue past courthouse and all blinking lights (Hwy 22 to Hillsboro will be a blinking light, **DO NOT TURN TO GO TO HILLSBORO**)
4. Follow the 2-lane road (2840) past the Hwy 174 intersection, railroad tracks, and all the way to the Camp John Marc sign (2-lane road will end)
5. Turn right on old asphalt road (County Rd 1110) and follow it to the "T" in the road
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If you are unable to come to camp, please call Christine Givens at 281-370-8195 as soon as possible.



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Permit No. 10

Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped
Association of Texas (DBMAT)
909 Mountain Park Drive
Big Spring, TX 79720
432-264-6780 (voice & fax)

Conference, 2012 Edition

Contents:

- Things to Consider Before You Register
- Notes from Planning Committee
- For Your Information
- Agenda at a Glance – Tentative
- Registration Form
- Child Vital Statistic Forms
- Roads to Camp John Marc Map

Deadline: September 3, 2012
Space is limited so send in your
registration early!!

DBMAT: "A SMILE AS BIG AS THE MOON"
October 12 – 14, 2012

Space is limited so send in your registration now!
(When copying this conference newsletter for others, please include all pages and information.)