



# Youth Handbook and Resource Guide

## youth Handbook and Resource Guide

Created by and for the youth at:

Fort Bliss, Texas

2008





# Youth Handbook and Resource Guide

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# Youth Handbook and Resource Guide

## I. Introduction

This guide is for all youth at Fort Bliss, TX. You can use it to help you as you get adjusted to our community and find things that will help make this community become your home. We created it by thinking about the kinds of things that we wanted to know when we arrived. It includes information about:

- ❖ Things to do
- ❖ Places to see
- ❖ Local customs and laws
- ❖ Local trends
- ❖ Phone numbers
- ❖ Places youth like to go

We hope that you like it and that you find it useful. If there are things that you think we should add or questions that you still have after reading the handbook, please call (915) 568-5437. We plan to republish the handbook every year, so if you want to help that would be great too! Enjoy reading and we hope that you like it here!

The Youth at Fort Bliss !!



# Youth Handbook and Resource Guide

## II. Living in El Paso: Just give me the facts!

Our community:

- ❖ Size: We are the 6<sup>th</sup> largest city in Texas, the largest border town, and the 21st largest city in America
- ❖ Location: We are in the far western corner of Texas, where Texas, New Mexico and Mexico meet
- ❖ Population: There are about 700,000 people living in El Paso and more than 24,000 soldiers and family members. This number is growing !
- ❖ Weather: Be sure to pack your sunglasses, sunscreen, and shorts and leave the winter coats in storage - unless you plan to drive the short 2 hours to the mountains. In the summer expect the temperature to be right around 95 degrees, sometimes higher, but 95 is about the average. Average winter temps are around 55-60 degrees.
- ❖ Time: We are on Mountain Time so we are 2 hours behind the east coast and 1 hour ahead of the west coast.

Interesting....

- ❖ The Spanish originally named this area "El Paso del Norte" or "Pass of the North".
- ❖ The Franklin Mountains, which divide El Paso, are the last southern ridge of the Rocky Mountains.
- ❖ El Paso is located in the Chihuahuan Desert, one of the largest desert areas in the world.
- ❖ The oldest road in the United States, the "Camino Real" or "King's Highway" leads through El Paso, once the Spanish conquistadors traveled north along this road on their search for gold and land.
- ❖ Billy the Kid, Pancho Villa, and John Wesley Hardin all roamed the area
- ❖ There are 15 museums on Fort Bliss and in El Paso.
- ❖ We are home to the El Paso Diablo's Baseball Team, UTEP collegiate sports, and Rhinos Hockey.

**OK, enough history and facts...now let's move on to the fun stuff!!**



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## III. Important phone numbers (e.g. fire department, schools, etc)

- ❖ Emergency Numbers
  - Ambulance 568-2209
  - Fire (from housing) 911
  - Military Police 568-2115/6/7
  
- ❖ School Age Programs
  - Main Post School Age Services (SAS) 568-7187
  - Logan School Age Services (SAS) 568-8336
  - Middle School and Teen Program (MS&T) 568-5437
  - SKIESUnlimited 568-7732
  - Youth Sports 568-2617/5437
  
- ❖ Physical Fitness Centers (ages 12-15 you have to bring a parent, over 16 can use the gyms without a parent)
  - Biggs PFC 568-8697
  - Logan PFC 568-5198
  - Milam PFC 568-7318
  - Stout PFC 568-4508
  
- ❖ Pools
  - Biggs Water Park 568-8087
  - Replica (indoor) 568-7431
  - Community 568-4825
  
- ❖ Recreation
  - Bowling 568-6272
  - Framing 568-5563
  - Golf 562-2066
  - Movie Theater (on post) 568-2516
  - Paint Ball 568-8087
  - Rod and Gun Club 568-2983
  - Tango Tower (50 ft, 6 sided climbing structure) 568-8087
  - Tennis 569-5449



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## III. Important phone numbers (e.g. fire department, schools, etc)

- ❖ Schools (there are way too many schools to list so we'll include only those that are on or right around Fort Bliss)

Bliss Elementary	587-2540
Hughey Elementary	832-6670
Logan Elementary	231-2720
Milam Elementary	587-2520
Bassett Middle	231-2260
Ross Middle	887-3060
Austin High	587-2500
Burges High	780-1100
Chapin High	832-6730



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## IV. Things to DO: Middle School & Teen Center

Bldg 195 Chaffee Rd  
(915) 568-5437

Mon-Fri: 1600-2000 during the school year  
Summer hours: 0800-1200 Summer Camps  
1300-2000 Open Programming  
Sat: 1300-2300 (Teens only after 2000)



The youth center is a great place to hang out with friends, participate in activities, learn a new hobby, make new friends...and yes, do your homework.

You will not get bored at the Youth Plex, some of the fun things to do include: Tech Lab, Power Hour, Keystone, Torch Club, Cooking, Photography, Journalism, Club Tech, Drama, Engineering, Fine Arts, Sports and Fitness, Arts and Crafts, Entrepreneur, "Against the Flow" Youth Bible Study, Ceramics, Astronomy, and Sponsorship.



Arts and Crafts

A little friendly competition



"What's Up Fort Bliss" is a monthly event where new kids are welcomed and we say good-bye to those who are leaving. The event is held on the last Tuesday of each month from 1630 - 1800.



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## IV. Things to DO: School/Clubs

There are 9 school districts in El Paso. Most military students attend El Paso ISD, Ysleta ISD, Socorro ISD or Canutillo ISD because they are the closest to Fort Bliss.

All of the school districts, except Socorro ISD, have a regular school calendar. Socorro is a year round school.

Your house address will determine which school you'll be attending. Some elementary and middle schools have a dress code so be sure to ask.



Depending on which school you attend you'll be able to pick from many different clubs and activities including sports, fine arts, academic clubs, dance, ROTC, Future Business Leaders of America, DECA, Student Council, Newspaper, Yearbook, Speech and Debate, Anime, Destination Imagination, Student 2 Student, you get the idea...there's lots to get involved in.

If you don't know, a Magnet Program is a school within a school which offers specialized courses and curriculum. You still get your regular classes but you also get classes in a special area. Some of the Magnet Programs in El Paso are: Pre-Engineering, Health Sciences, International Business, International Baccalaureate Program, Criminal Justice/Public Service, Culinary Arts, and many more.

If that is not enough, the school districts also offer Early College High School Programs. With a series of rigorous course work and specialized curriculum, students who attend Early College High Schools will graduation with both a High School Diploma and an Associates Degree.



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## IV. Things to DO: Shopping/Movie Theaters

Who doesn't love to shop and go to the movies? There is no shortage of either in El Paso.

The movie theater on post shows the latest and greatest movies on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (they are closed the rest of the week) for a mere \$2.00; anyone's allowance can afford that.

If off post movie going is more your thing there are 7 state of the art theaters within 20 miles.

There are 4 main shopping malls near the installation: Cielo Vista, Sunland Park, Bassett Center, and a Factory Outlet Mall. You'll find everything from Aeropostale, American Eagle, Pac Sun, EB Games, Journeys, Hollister, Old Navy, JC Penney, Dillard's, Claire's, Build-A-Bear, the list goes on and on.





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## IV. Things to DO: Sports and Fitness

The youth center offers many youth sports opportunities. SKIESUnlimited, MWR and local organizations also offer a variety of activities.

Youth/Teen Center .....568-2617/5437  
195 Chaffee Rd

- ❖ Offers football, soccer, baseball, basketball, track, and wrestling. Volleyball and softball are coming soon; they may be here by your arrival. Check the website at <http://www.blissmwr.com/youthsports> for registration information.

SKIESUnlimited.....568-7732

- ❖ Offers instructional classes for all ages including ballet, tap, rhythm & dance, cheerleading, swimming, drivers education, Tae Kwon Do, piano, tutoring, babysitter course, Judo, modeling, and more ! Check the website at <http://www.blissmwr.com/skies> for more information.

Rhino's Hockey (outside the gates).....479-7825

- ❖ The El Paso Rhino's Hockey Arena is opening its doors to military children. Every Sunday, admittance and equipment will be provided free of charge to the first 30 children. Interested persons can sign-up at the Youth Plex, Building 195 or by contacting Tom Herman at 915-479-7825 or [therman@elpasohockey.org](mailto:therman@elpasohockey.org).

### Fitness centers

- ❖ There are 4 fitness centers on the installation
- ❖ If you are 12-15 years old you'll have to bring a parent, if you are 16 and older you can use the facilities on your own
- ❖ Offers weight rooms, fitness machines, cardio theater rooms, aerobics, juice bar, basketball courts, and so much more.



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## IV. Things to DO: Sports and Fitness

More recreational activities

- ❖ Golf
- ❖ Tango Tower
- ❖ Paintball
- ❖ Rod & Gun Club
- ❖ And many more.....



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## IV. Things to DO: Local Activities

Do you like sports, theater, plays, hiking, museums, culture, good food, and history? Then you will love Fort Bliss and El Paso

We could not possibly cover everything in this guide, but we'll share with you some of our favorites.

UTEP's collegiate men's and women's basketball, football and volleyball are some of the most exciting games you will ever watch. Whether you're in the Sun Bowl or the Don Haskins Center you will have an awesome time.

A night with the Diablo's at Cohen Stadium is never dull. The season runs from April through August and military get in free during Military Appreciation Nights.

Like biking? You can choose from Sun City BMX Racing Track, Crazy Cat Mountain Biking, or biking with the family and friends.

Hiking in the desert? Of course! There are literally hundreds of hiking trails in and around El Paso.

Like history, museums, culture? We have science, art, firefighters, Holocaust, archeology, history, railroad, military, Border Patrol, and history museums and that's just to mention a few. You can experience our diverse culture by attending some of the many activities and annual events both on Fort Bliss and in El Paso.

Don't mind driving a little? Then convince your parents to take you on a day, or weekend, trip. Carlsbad Cavers is one of the world's largest underground chambers. Elephant Butte is the largest lake in New Mexico, you can boat, ski, tube, swim, any kind of water activities. In the Gila National forest you'll find the Gila Cliff Dwellings and Catwalk. Hueco Tanks State Park has Indian rock paintings and you can hike, climb, and camp there. In Ruidoso you can ski, hike, camp, and enjoy lots and lots of trees. Have you ever sled on sand? Well you can at White Sands National Monument.



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## IV. Things to DO: Places to Hang Out

As any pre-teen and teen knows this is really the most important thing to know about moving to a new place, where to go to hang out and have fun. This is just a small list of the many things to do but we like these places a lot and thought you'd enjoy trying them out too.

On Post:

**Super Awesome Saturdays:** The Logan SAS is open on several Saturdays a month from 3:00 to 10:00 pm for kids in grades 1-5. They've always got something fun planned so try it out! Tell your parents it's free they just have to register by the Friday before and make sure you're enrolled in CYSS.

**Bowling:** Looking to have some fun with your family or friends, the bowling alley is the place to go. They have bowling parties, lights and strobes on Sundays, and a game room. They're located at Bldg. 2949, Fort Bliss and their phone number is (915) 568-6272/1685.

**MS&T:** The Middle School & Teen Youth Plex has got something for everyone. There's a game room, a gym, video and board games, a teen lounge, teen patio, playground, a skateboard park, and sports fields. You can also participate in some of the activities including tech lab, journalism, cooking, leadership clubs, arts and crafts, and 4-H and Boys and Girls Club activities. Stop by for a tour at Bldg 195 Chaffee Rd or call at (915) 568-5437

**Swimming Pools:** We have 2 awesome pools. Replica Pool is our indoor pool and is located at Bldg 5035, Fort Bliss, their phone number is (915)568-7431; the Community Pool is an outdoor pool located just outside the Officer's Club at Bldg 250, their phone number is (915)568-4825. You can swim, play on the slides, have a party, and soak up some sun at either pool.

**Biggs Park:** Like to play paint ball? Ever though about climbing a 50 foot high, six sided structure with over 20 different high elements? Then Biggs Park is the place for you. The park also has volleyball, basketball, softball, horseshoes, BBQ



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## IV. Things to DO: Places to Hang Out

pits, and picnic areas for a full day of fun. There is also a water park for the smaller kids. Call to find out more (915)568-8087.



Off Post:

Bob-Os Fun Center:  
3851 Constitution Dr.  
(915)587-6070

They have Laser Odyssey, Go-Karts, 18 Hole Miniature Golf Course, Miniature Go-Karts, Bumper Boats, Miniature Train, Batting Cages and a full service arcade.

Adventure Zone:  
251 E. Redd Rd  
(915)585-9663

They have golf, game zone, bumper boats, food, party zone, bounce zone, Animal land, go-carts, and much more.

IPC (Incredible Pizza Company):  
1430 N. Lee Trevino Dr  
(915)592-6800

Indoor play land which has mini-golf, bumper cars, go-karts, mini-bowling, game room, and a huge pizza buffet.



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## IV. Things to DO: Places to Hang Out

Peter Piper Pizza:

Several locations throughout El Paso

Visit <http://www.peterpiperpizza.com> for all the locations

Interactive games, video games, prizes, air hockey, video roller coaster rides and much more.

Wet n Wild:

8804 S. Desert Blvd

Anthony, TX

(915)886-2222

Rides and thrills for toddlers through adult. Amazon, Alien Vortex, Wild Island Wave Pool

The Blue Streak, The Corkscrew, The Blaster, The Soaker, Raging Rapids, The Screamer

Volcano Super Slide, King Kiri's Fountains of Fun, Katcha Kiddie Creek and many more.

Western Playland Amusement Park:

1249 Futurity Dr

Sunland Park, NM 88063

(575) 589-3410

Kid's rides, family rides, and family thrill rides await you at Western Playland.

Rides include a 60 foot roller coaster, a 90 foot drop zone, and so much more.

Plenty of food and prizes too.

Cohen Stadium:

9700 Gateway N. Blvd

(915)755-2000

There is so much to do at Cohen Stadium!!! See the Diablo's play, watch Arenacross Race and Monster Truck Show, enjoy various concerts, check out cool cars at the car shows, or watch an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. Never a dull minute at Cohen Stadium.



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## IV. Things to DO: Places to Hang Out

### Gumballs:

7924 Gateway Blvd E

El Paso, TX 79915

(915) 694-4183

This is a really great place to have your birthday party or a special event. There are jumping balloons, face painting, Piñata area, video arcade, inflatable maze and so much more.

### Corn Maze:

There are several corn mazes near El Paso.

The one in Fabens is located at 1501 Hole in the Wall Road, Fabens, TX. Their phone number is (915)764-3530.

Or try The MAiZE in La Union, NM on HWY 28.

The Mesilla Valley Maze at 3855 West Picacho, Las Cruces, NM is a little bit of a drive but definitely worth it. They have hay rides, a pumpkin patch, a huge maze, and so much more.



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## V. Education – Middle and High School

Middle Schools: If you live on Fort Bliss you will probably be zoned for either Bassett Middle or Ross Middle. Both have a dress code.

- ❖ Bassett: Shirt: polo style or t-shirt - white or maroon with school logo  
Pants: Khaki with no brand name (no cargo style)
- ❖ Ross: Shirt: polo style - white or hunter green  
Pants: Khaki or navy (skirts, shorts, and skorts are allowed)

Other Middle Schools surrounding Fort Bliss are: Canyon Hills, Charles, MacArthur, Nolan Richardson, and Terrace Hills.

High Schools: If you live on Fort Bliss you will probably be zoned for either Chapin High or Austin High. Neither have a dress code.

Other High Schools surrounding Fort Bliss are: Burgess, Irvin and Address.

Bell Schedule:

Middle School: 0750 - 1450

High School: 0845 - 1545

Graduation Requirements:

Students can choose between the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) or the Distinguished Achievement High School Program (DAP).

RHSP: Students must earn at least 24 credits in the following areas. Students entering High School during the 2008/9 school year must earn at least 26 credits, 1 additional credit in both Math and Science:

- ❖ 4 in English
- ❖ 3 in Math: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II (a 4<sup>th</sup> Math credit is required if entering HS in the 08/09 school year)



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## V. Education – Middle and High School

- ❖ 3 in Science: IPC, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics (Principles of Technology can substitute Physics) (a 4<sup>th</sup> Science credit is required if entering HS in the 08/09 school year)
- ❖ 3.5 in Social Studies: World Geography, World History, United States History, United States Government
- ❖ .5 in Economics
- ❖ 1.5 in Physical Education
- ❖ .5 in Health
- ❖ .5 in Speech
- ❖ 1.0 in Technology Applications
- ❖ 1.0 in Fine Arts
- ❖ 2.0 in Languages other than English (must be the same language)
- ❖ 3.5 in Electives

The DAP requires the same course requirement as the RHSP with: One (1) additional credit of a language other than English (for a total of three (3) credits). Students must also achieve an additional combination of **four** specific advanced measures. Contact your school counselor if you want more information about DAP.

### Grading:

- ❖ 90-100    A
- ❖ 80-89    B
- ❖ 75-79    C
- ❖ 70-74    D
- ❖ 0-69      F

### Useful resources:

- ❖ EPISD Mathpointer: <http://www.episd.org/math/Mathpointers.html>
- ❖ Student Online Achievement Resources (SOAR): Interactive tutorials will help you get ready for the courses in your new school. The tutorials are designed for each state's learning standards so you can get started even before you arrive. <http://www.soarathome.org/>



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## V. Education - College

The Middle School and Teen Center's Teen Lounge is full of college information, applications, brochures, computers, and everything you need to make a decision about college.

There is also SAT/ACT/PSAT prep course software loaded on the computers.

Getting ready for college begins as soon as you enter high school. Remember, grades that determine your GPA begin in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Juniors:

- ❖ Enroll in pre-AP and AP courses
- ❖ Start thinking about where you want to go to college and talk to your parents about your choices. Remember, college is expensive and you will pay more for out of state schools
- ❖ If your schedule allows and the course is offered at your school you should take an SAT/PSAT/ACT prep course
- ❖ Request college applications and visit campuses if possible
- ❖ Get letters of recommendation
- ❖ Identify scholarship opportunities
- ❖ Participate in and record community service/volunteer work

### Seniors:

- ❖ Continue to do what you were doing as a Junior but you'll have added responsibilities
- ❖ Take the SAT or ACT, or both
- ❖ Narrow your college choices
- ❖ Submit college and scholarship applications. A deadline is a deadline
- ❖ Complete financial aid paperwork



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## V. Education - College

Useful Websites: These are just a few of the many websites which will help you prepare for, select, and pay for college.

The Princeton Review: <http://www.princetonreview.com>

College Board.com: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

Scholarships: <http://www.scholarship.com>

<http://www.fastweb.com>

<http://www.blissmwr.com/yess>



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## **VI. Join us soon on the web for more information on:**

**Fort Bliss law and you**

**Employment**

**Volunteering**

**Libraries**

**Religious Activities**

**And so much more.....**

**Provide feed back for information you'd like to see included in the handbook to:**

**Blis.yess@conus.army.mil**