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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Great American Backyard Campout At Lake Houston Park**

Heed the call of the Great Outdoors during the Great American Backyard Campout! This nationwide event will take place on June 23 beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Lake Houston Park, 22031 Baptist Encampment Rd., in New Caney. The aim is to introduce a new generation to the fun of camping and the great outdoors, while reminding parents of their own childhood campout experiences. Participation in the campout is completely FREE!

"I can't think of a better way to introduce your family to camping," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "Lake Houston Park is just a short 30 minute drive from downtown Houston with campsites, hike and bike trails and all sorts of fun activities to engage young campers with nature!"

Campers and their families can participate in and watch a variety of camping demonstrations including: how to set up a tent, cooking with camp stoves, and campout story time. In addition, special presentations will bring Lake Houston Parks' wildlife up close and personal with the help of The Houston Audubon Society, PEAK (Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids) and Houston Wilderness Passport Program, and Lake Houston Park Naturalist Jerry Walls.

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As part of the national campout experience, local campers are urged to log onto [www.backyardcampout.org/](http://www.backyardcampout.org/) to register their campsite, share their experiences, and register for a giveaway.

The Great American Campout at Lake Houston Park is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, Keep Houston Beautiful, REI, Shell and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Campsite costs and park entry fees have been waived due to the support provided by Shell and REI.

To reserve a campsite for the Great American Campout at Lake Houston Park, call (281) 354-6881.

For more information on Lake Houston Park or the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 845-1135 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).