

a. Fish Camp

b. The first Fish Camp (known simply as “Freshman Camp”) was held by YMCA Director Gordon Gay.

c. Director Gordon Gay took the first Fish Camp members to Fort Parker State Park in Mexia, Texas in 1954.

d. Fish Camp session occurs between the end of July and the middle of August.

e. Fish Camp is the longstanding first tradition for incoming A&M freshmen. It serves as their first introduction to the university and allows them to build a community while learning more about the various traditions that we have here at Texas A&M University. Fish Camp is a great opportunity for freshmen to begin making connections with people in their class before even stepping foot on campus. There are eight total sessions of Fish Camp each year.

The founder Gay’s goal for this camp was to teach the freshmen more about Texas A&M University and its traditions in a place where the young men could also develop a friendship with their fellow peers. The first camp’s success is what paved the way for what we now know as the annual Fish Camp. In 1957, Fish Camp changed sites and moved their camp to Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas, and has been held at the Conference Center ever since. Each year, we get to celebrate the success of Fish Camp through a variety of activities and games.