

GOLDEN SPREAD COUNCIL, BSA KNOW BEFORE YOU FLY



Flying drones is a fun way Scouts can start learning about robotics, science, technology, and engineering. Many camps already offer drone-flying programs.

If you plan on flying a small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS), whether for a Scouting event or not, you will need to first pass a test. Legislation in 2018 called for the Federal Aviation Administration to introduce new requirements for all recreational drone pilots, including passing an aeronautical knowledge and safety test and providing proof of passing the test when flying a drone.

The FAA worked with stakeholders, developed the test, and approved test administrators, including the Boy Scouts of America. You can take The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) through the BSA.

TRUST, available here:

<https://www.scouting.org/the-recreational-uas-safety-test/>

The Golden Spread Council, BSA (GSC) developed a Drone (sUAS) Guidelines and Request Form that allows scouting youth and adults to fly a sUAS on GSC properties.

Drone (sUAS) Guidelines & Request Form, available here:

<https://goldenspread.org/resources-for-leaders/forms/>



Drone (sUAS) Guidelines & Request Form

Recreational Flyers & Community-Based Organizations

The rule for operating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones under 55 pounds in the National Airspace System (NAS) is 14 CFR Part 107, referred to as the Small UAS Rule. However, if you want to fly a drone for purely recreational purposes, there is a limited statutory exception ("carve out") that provides a basic set of requirements.

The Recreational UAS Safety Test or TRUST is available! Recreational flyers are encouraged to take and pass TRUST at their earliest opportunity and carry proof of passage when flying.

What is a Recreational Flight?

Many people assume that a recreational flight simply means not flying for a business or being compensated. But, that's not always the case. Compensation, or the lack of it, is not what determines if a flight was recreational or not. Before you fly your drone, you need to know which regulations apply to your flight.

The default regulation for drones weighing under 55 pounds is Part 107. Almost all non-recreational drone flying is regulated by Part 107.

- **Note:** Non-recreational drone flying include things like taking photos to help sell a property or service, roof inspections, or taking pictures of a high school football game for the school's website. Goodwill can also be considered non-recreational. This would include things like volunteering to use your drone to survey coastlines on behalf of a non-profit organization.

Remember, if you're not sure which rules apply to your flight, fly under Part 107.

Congress created the Exception for Limited Recreational Operations of Unmanned Aircraft to allow those flying drones purely for fun or personal enjoyment to operate without complying with Part 107. People flying under this Exception are required to comply with all rules for recreational flyers.

What are the Rules for Recreational Flyers?

The Exception for Limited Recreational Operations of Unmanned Aircraft (**USC 44809**) is the law that describes how, when, and where you can fly drones for recreational purposes. Following these rules helps keep people, your drone and our airspace safe:

1. Fly only for recreational purposes (personal enjoyment).
2. Follow the safety guidelines of an FAA-recognized Community Based Organization (CBO). For more information on how to become an FAA-recognized CBO, read Advisory Circular 91-57C
3. Keep your drone within the visual line of sight or use a visual observer who is co-located (physically next to) and in direct communication with you.
4. Give way to and do not interfere with other aircraft.
5. Fly at or below FAA-authorized altitudes in controlled airspace (Class B, C, D, and surface Class E designated for an airport) only with prior FAA authorization by using LAANC or DroneZone.
6. Fly at or below 400 feet in Class G (uncontrolled) airspace. Note: Anyone flying a drone in the U.S. National Airspace System (NAS) is responsible for flying within the FAA guidelines and regulations. That means it is up to you as a drone pilot to know the rules: [Where Can I Fly?](#)
7. Take The Recreational UAS Safety Test (**TRUST**) and carry proof of test passage when flying.
8. Have a current FAA registration, mark your drones on the outside with the registration number, and carry proof of registration with you when flying.
 - **Note:** Beginning March 16, 2024, if your drone requires an FAA registration number it will also be required to broadcast Remote ID information (unless flown within a FRIA). For more information on drone registration, visit [How to Register Your Drone](#).
9. Do not operate your drone in a manner that endangers the safety of the national airspace system.

From the Federal Aviation Administration: https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_flyers

Drone (sUAS) Request Form

Recreational _____ Non-Recreational _____

Remote Pilot in Command (PIC) Information:

First & Last Name _____

Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____ Current Age _____

Email Address _____ Phone #(____) _____

TRUST

Authorization Token #: _____ Issued by: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

And/or

USA/DoT/FAA

Remote Pilot Certification#: _____ Date of Issue: ____ / ____ / ____

Date of Event: ____ / ____ / ____

Event Name _____ Location _____

FAA Registration# on Drone (if required). _____

Weight of Drone _____

Does Your Drone Have a camera? Yes _____ No _____

A copy of insurance must be attached. (Minimum amount \$1,000,000)

Insurance Carrier Name _____

Amount of insurance \$ _____

For Office Use Only

Denied by _____ Date _____

Reason for Denial _____

Approved by (print name) _____

Date of Event _____

Name of Event _____

Location of Event _____

Drone can only be flown in _____

Sign _____ Date _____

All pictures taken with drones (sUAS) on Golden Spread Council property or events may not be published in any form without written permission from the Golden Spread Council.

Texas Drone Regulations

Federal Drone Laws in Texas

These are drone laws that apply to every state in the U.S., including Texas, and were created by the federal government.

To fly a drone as a commercial pilot in the state of Texas (i.e. for work / business purposes) you are required to follow the requirements of the [FAA's Part 107 Small UAS Rule \(Part 107\)](#), which includes passing the [FAA's Aeronautical Knowledge Test](#) to obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate.

To fly a drone as a hobbyist in the state of Texas (i.e. for fun / pleasure) you are required by the FAA to take [The Recreational UAS Safety Test \(TRUST\)](#). You are also required to follow the FAA's [recreational model aircraft rules](#). One of those rules is that if your drone weighs more than 0.55 lbs (250g), you'll need to [pay \\$5 to get it registered](#). There are additional rules when it comes to airspace and altitude, keeping your drone within line-of-sight while you're flying, and more.

To fly a drone as a government employee in the state of Texas (i.e., for a police or fire department) you may either operate under the FAA's Part 107 rule or obtain a federal [Certificate of Authorization \(COA\)](#).

Note: The content on this page is meant for informational purposes only, and is not meant to take the place of legal counsel.

State Drone Laws in Texas

These are drone laws that apply to the entire state of Texas, and were created by the Texas Legislature.

[SB 840 // 2017](#)

This law permits telecommunications providers to use UAS to capture images. It also specifies that only law enforcement may use UAS to capture images of real property that is within 25 miles of the U.S. border for border security purposes. The law also allows a UAS to be used to capture images by an insurance company for certain insurance purposes, as long as the operator is authorized by the FAA.

[HB 1424 // 2017](#)

This law prohibits UAS operation over correctional and detention facilities. This law also prohibits operation over a sports venue except in certain instances.

[HB 1643 // 2017](#)

This law prohibits local governments from regulating UAS except during special events and when the UAS is used by the locality.

[HB 2167 // 2015](#)

This law permits individuals in certain professions to capture images used in those professions using UAS as long as no individual is identifiable in the image.

[HB 1481 // 2015](#)

This law makes it a Class B misdemeanor to operate UAS over a critical infrastructure facility if the UAS is not more than 400 feet off the ground.

[HB 912 // 2013](#)

This law enumerates 19 lawful uses for unmanned aircraft, including their use in airspace designated as an FAA test site, their use in connection with a valid search warrant, and their use in oil pipeline safety and rig protection. This law also creates two new crimes: 1) the illegal use of an unmanned aircraft to capture images, and 2) the offense of possessing or distributing the image.

[Texas Administrative Code §65.152 // 2005](#)

The use of drones to hunt, drive, capture, take, count or photograph any wildlife is unlawful except with an [Aerial Management Permit \(AMP\)](#) and a [Land Owner Authorization \(LOA\)](#).

[Texas Parks & Wildlife Policy](#)

Drones are not allowed in Texas State Parks without a permit except for in two parks with specified zones for flying remote-controlled aircraft (including drones): Lake Whitney and San Angelo. You can request a filming permit for your craft at any park by contacting that park. Allow several weeks for the park to review your request.

All drone pilots operating commercially in the state of Texas are subject to the FAA's Part 107 rules. Learn more about the FAA's certification process to obtain a commercial drone license [in this free guide](#).

Know something we don't about drone laws in Texas? Send us an email at [support\[at\]uavcoach\[dot\]com](mailto:support[at]uavcoach[dot]com). We do our best to keep this list up-to-date, but the reality is that given the pace of the small unmanned aerial system (sUAS) industry and how municipal governments are responding, drone regulations in Texas can change throughout the year, and changes can be hard to track. If we missed something, please reach out to let us know.



Why fly a drone in Texas? To get great shots like these!

Local Drone Laws in Texas

These are drone laws that apply only to certain regions, cities, or counties within the state of Texas, and were created by various authorities within the state.

[Harris County \(Includes Metropolitan Houston\)—Park Regulation](#)

A person may not operate a drone or model aircraft in a precinct park except in a specifically designated area, and the drone or model aircraft must remain in the operator's line of sight, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Park Superintendent.

Take a Drone Flight Training Class in Texas

UAV Coach offers in-person training in select cities in Texas. The 2-hour, in-person training class provides hands-on flight time with an instructor, practice with intelligent flight modes, and education on what to do before, during, and after a flight mission to stay compliant and safe. During the class, you'll also get a chance to ask your questions about regulations, software, flight operations management, checklists and more.

Sign up for an in-person drone flight training class in Texas.

Looking to get in more practice flying your drone? In addition to taking a drone flight training class with one of our trained instructors, you can also scout out safe and legal places to fly on your own using our guides to the Best Places to Fly a Drone in [Austin](#), [Dallas](#), [Houston](#), and [San Antonio](#).