

THE BIG BOND SURVIVAL GUIDE



Big Bond is not a typical music festival. Big Bond takes place in the remote west Texas Chihuahuan Desert. Yes, there is music and camping, but more importantly, Big Bond is a celebration of nature and community. The Big Bond community subscribes to a collection of tenets such as Accountability, Inclusion, and Leave No Trace, among others, which collectively are referred to as the Big Bond Ethos. This Ethos acts as a guide for the values and culture of the Big Bond community.

You are welcomed. Lets be friends.

THE ESSENTIALS

1. Wristbands: All attendees need a valid wristband. A wristband grants you entry to Big Bond and the campgrounds. As long as you are still wearing a valid wristband, you may come and go from the festival as you please for the duration of Big Bond. All wristband sales are final and will be mailed out a few weeks prior to Big Bond 2024. All wristband holders are legally bound to the terms and conditions which can be found on the Big Bond website.

2. Preparation: The Big Bond camp grounds have bathrooms and outdoor showers. However, the water is not potable. You are responsible for bringing your own potable water and any other supplies you will need, including shelter and food. Bring 1.5 gallons of water per person per day. While you may be able to buy some supplies in Terlingua, no supplies will be sold at Big Bond.

3. Safety: The Chihuahuan Desert is a remote and inhospitable place. You are responsible for your own safety and decisions. The nearest EMS response center is 8 minutes from the camp grounds; however, the nearest hospital is 1.5 hours away. Practice caution and make responsible decisions. Wear lights at night, bring a small first aid kit, and look out for each other.

4. Laws: Big Bond takes place on private land, but state and federal laws still apply. You will most likely pass a border patrol check point on your way to and from Big Bond. A bad interaction with law enforcement is a sure way to mess up your Big Bond experience. Read more about this in the Law Enforcement section of the survival guide.

5. Toilets: If it did not come out of your body and is not single ply toilet paper, it does not belong in the toilets.

THE BIG BOND ETHOS

A tenet is a specific principle, belief, or doctrine that is a fundamental element of a larger set of guiding principles. The Big Bond community subscribes to a collection of tenets.

Together these tenets make up the Big Bond Ethos.

Accountability

Members of the Big Bond community practice personal responsibility and accountability. We do our best to be both physically and mentally prepared for all outcomes. We recognize that individuals are accountable for their own actions and decisions.

Authentic Expression

We encourage the full expression of self without judgment of self nor each other. Without judgment or normal social constructs, we are free to be our authentic selves. Acts of authentic expression should always respect the rights and liberties of others.

Inclusion

Anyone may join this community.

This community encourages proactively welcoming and assisting the stranger.

Leave No Trace

We celebrate and respect the natural world wherever we are. We accept accountability for cleaning up after ourselves and strive to leave spaces better than we found them.

Life Is Now

Big Bond, as with life, is best experienced in the moment. This community strives to overcome obstacles, both real and imagined, that prevent us from living in the present moment.



WHAT TO BRING

YOU MUST BRING

- 1.5 gallons of water per person per day
- A reusable water bottle or camelbak
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Warm clothing
- Trash bags
- Flashlights
- Prescriptions in their original containers and any other necessary health supplies like epipens.
- Food and a plan for how to prepare it
- Tent, van, RV, or other form of shelter
- Common sense and a good vibe

YOU SHOULD BRING

- Firewood
- A cooler and ice
- Shade for your camp
- Tent stakes
- A camping stove
- Chapstick
- A small first aid kit
- Decorative lights
- A hat
- Outfits to authentically express yourself

YOU CAN NOT BRING

- Fireworks or explosives
- ATVs
- Stowaways
- Illegal drugs
- Firearms of any kind including BB guns, air rifles, paintball, and airsoft guns

SURVIVING AT BIG BOND

SAFETY

- The desert is an inhospitable environment. **You are accountable for your own preparations and decisions.** Should you require emergency medical services, Terlingua Fire and EMS is located 8 minutes from the camp grounds on FM170. Big Bend Regional Medical Center is the nearest hospital and is 1.5 hours away. Needless to say, a trip to the hospital would not be an enjoyable Big Bond experience, so make smart decisions and exercise caution.
- There are deep dried ravines and large rock formations on the grounds. Climbing the large rocks is dangerous and strongly discouraged especially at night. Climb them and walk without lights at your own risk. Driving in camping areas or in front of the stage is not allowed at night.
- Only build fires in rock rings and take steps to ensure the fire is controlled at all times. Never use gasoline to start a fire.
- To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, never use equipment like camping stoves in enclosed spaces. Avoid running vehicles such as cars or generators, next to tents or enclosed spaces. Park vehicles a safe distance from sleeping areas.

WATER

- While there are showers and restrooms at Big Bond, there is no potable water. You need to bring at least 1.5 gallons per person per day.

THE ELEMENTS

- **Rain:** While rain at Big Bond is uncommon, come physically and mentally prepared for it. Avoid high ground, elevate power connections and keep them dry, do not operate generators in standing water, rain proof your shelter as best you can, and check on your neighbors. Hunker down until the weather passes.

- **Temperatures:** Daytime temperatures can exceed 100 degrees during the day and drop into the low 50s or even lower at night. Be prepared for both extremes. Being at almost 3000 feet of elevation, the UV index is usually higher than it would be at lower elevations. Apply sunscreen often and consider setting up shade structures. Bring a good sleeping bag and warm clothes. Consuming alcohol or caffeine can cause dehydration. If you notice headaches, stomach cramps, mood swings, or chills in warm weather, it could be dehydration. Seek shade, drink water, and seek help from someone else immediately.

LIGHTS

- It gets really dark at night. It is easy to step somewhere you did not want to and for others to not be able to see you. Carry a flash light and wear some decorative lights.

BIG BOND FESTIVAL GROUNDS



The entrance to Big Bond is on S County Road and will be on your right. Drive slowly because the gate can be easy to miss and other cars can come around corners. Use the address Goat Pens Circle, Terlingua, TX 79852.

Please be wearing your wristband when you arrive - it will make check in faster. Once at the gate, greeters will welcome you to Big Bond, ask everyone in your vehicle to show their wristbands, and conduct a quick vehicle search for prohibited items or stowaways.

You may park and set up camp anywhere in the designated camping areas.

Campsites are available on a first come first serve basis.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Leave No Trace is one of the tenets of the Big Bond Ethos. It is incumbent upon each of us to put this principle into practice. If it was not there when you arrived, it should not be there when you depart. There is no garbage collection at Big Bond. While there may be a few trash cans near the main stage, these are strictly for that drink you finished while dancing at the stage, so you do not have to return all the way to your campsite. All other waste you generate while at Big Bond must be taken with you when you leave.

This includes any waste left by your pets. Do not try to locate a dumpster in Terlingua or neighboring communities to dispose of trash bags. The locals pay for trash collection services and will not appreciate visitors trying to take advantage of them. The future of Big Bond depends in part on maintaining good relations with the local community.

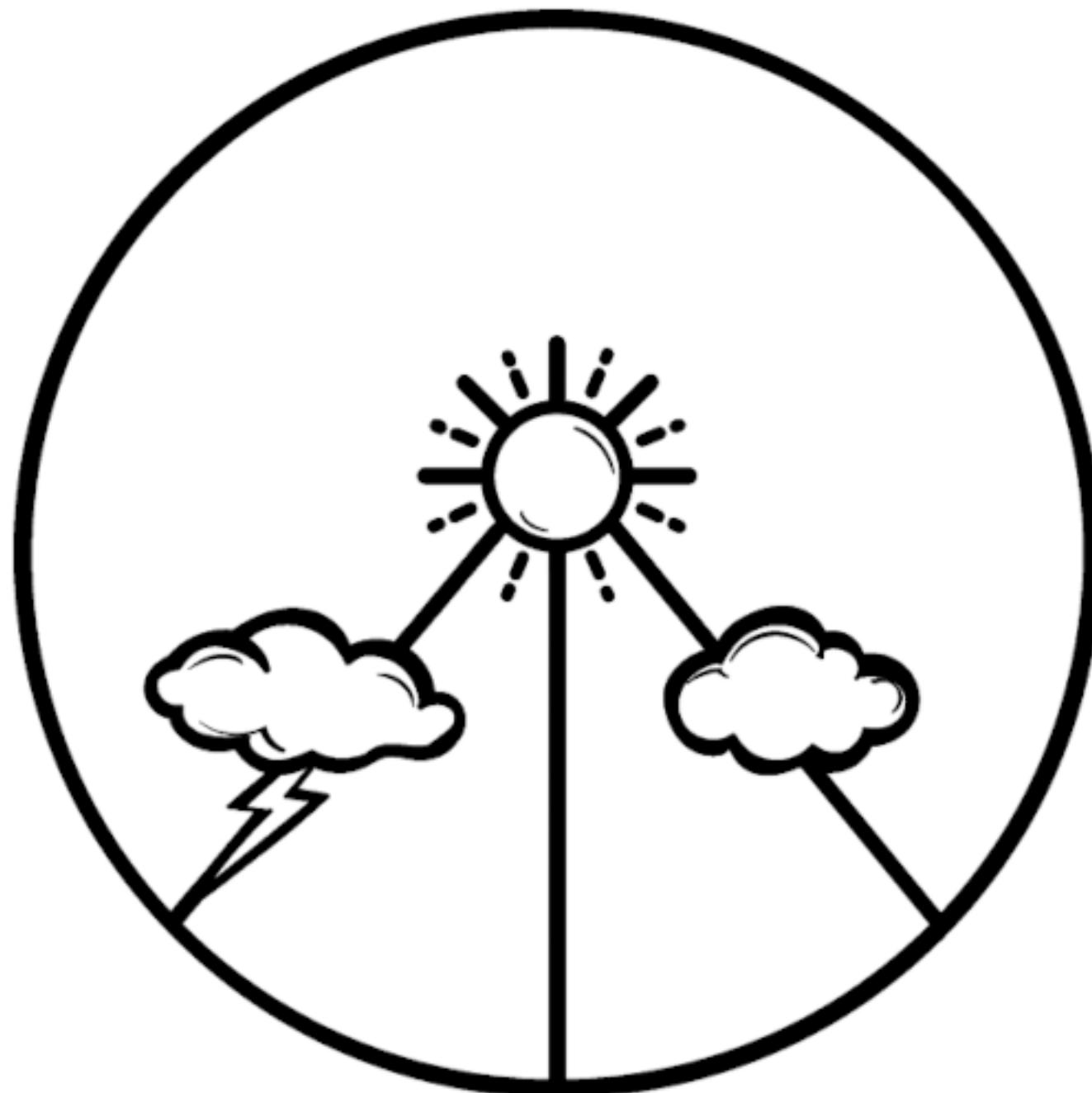
Please wait to dispose of your trash until later in your journey home. If you encounter any trash, pick it up, even if it is not your own. Avoid bringing items like glitter, feathers, or anything that can be easily blown away by the wind. Wind gusts can be strong, and anything that can be carried away by wind probably will be, so be sure to secure anything that might blow away.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

This could be the most important stuff you read in the Survival Guide. Read it carefully.

Disclaimer: This Survival Guide provides information about laws and regulations applicable to activities near the Big Bond grounds. Legal information provided is not legal advice, and although we strive to ensure the accuracy and usefulness of the information provided here, you should consult with a lawyer if you want specific legal advice.

- Big Bond takes place on private land, however federal and state laws still apply. It is the wild west, but at the same time, it really isn't.
- It is not uncommon for sheriff's deputies to show up unannounced at Big Bond. Usually they are simply curious about the noise and Big Bond organizers handle the situation without incident. However, in the unlikely event that a law enforcement officer asks to search your belongings, you do not have to consent to a search in most cases. Note that refusing to consent to a search may not stop the officer from carrying out a search against your will, but making a timely objection before or during the search can help preserve your rights in any later legal proceeding. You have the right to record the officer subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions.
- You will likely pass a border patrol station on your way to and from Big Bond. If you are stopped, remain calm and provide identification if asked for it. You have the right to remain silent but be truthful and polite. You can refuse a search but may face delays. If you believe your rights were violated, document the encounter and report any concerns later.
- If you are the victim of a crime, report it IMMEDIATELY to the Brewster County Sheriff's office.
 - The use and possession of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia are violations of the law. The possession of large quantities or a variety of drugs may be interpreted as evidence of intent to distribute or traffick - a serious felony offense. Giving illegal substances to someone else could also be considered drug trafficking.



 **NO CEILINGS
NO FLOORS**