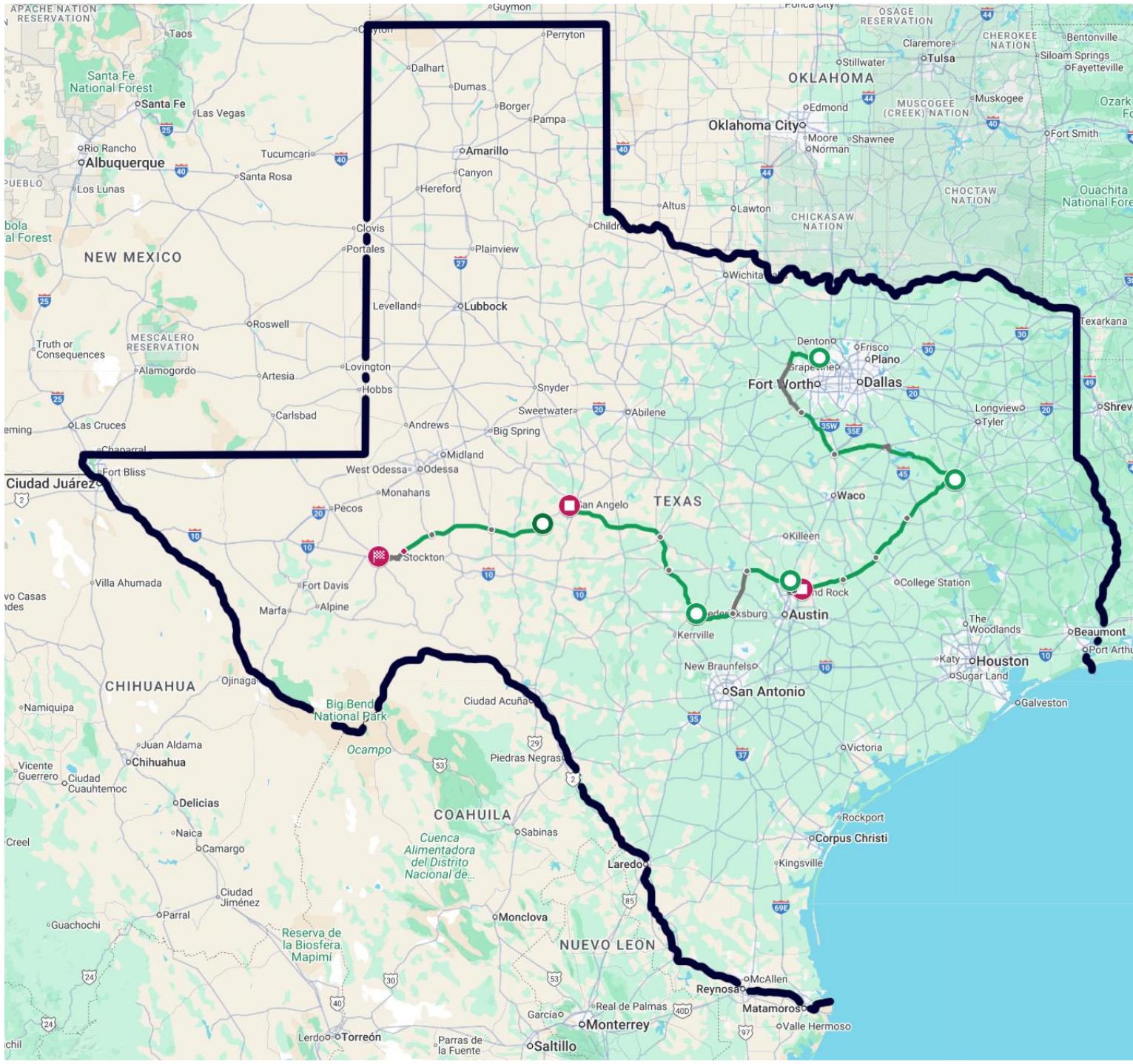


HOW TO DRIVE THE 2026 CROSS-TEXAS ADVENTURE



RACE OVERVIEW

DAY ONE

Fort Worth to Palestine High School

Maximum driving miles: 153.6

Note: Teams may drive more than 153.6 miles due to driving variations, but teams can only get credit for this number of miles. Teams scoring full mileage will be evaluated based on driving time.



DAY TWO

**Palestine to Dell Diamond in
Round Rock**

Maximum driving miles: 142.1



DAY THREE

**Round Rock to Marktplatz Park in
Fredericksburg**

Maximum driving miles: 66.7

Marktplatz von Fredericksburg 2025



DAY FOUR

Fredericksburg to Tinseltown

Cinema in San Angelo

Maximum driving miles: 144.6



DAY FIVE

San Angelo to Fort Stockton

Convention Center

Maximum driving miles: 112.8



TOTAL DRIVEABLE MILES: 619.8

Distanced traveled: 700 miles

HOW TO DRIVE THE RACE

- Successfully driving a cross-country race is based on your understanding of the road ahead of you.
- The 2026 Cross-Texas Adventure Race Route Booklet attempts to provide insight into road conditions, obstacles, and terrain features, but this must be supplemented by your pre-race research!

- Teams need to find a **topographic software** that will give you a view of the road ahead.
- With this information, teams can make an educated decision to either drive the road ahead, or trailer the solar car to flatter terrain.
- Teams attempting to drive every hill will drain their batteries and earn fewer miles per day because they will be on the side of the road re-charging.
- Choose well in advance the road sections you want to drive.

Using Online & Desktop Software *EXAMPLES*

- **Google Earth Pro**: Install the Pro version, draw a path on your desired road, and use the elevation profile tool to see altitude changes along the route.
- **USGS topoBuilder**: Create custom topographic maps on demand using National Map data for detailed elevation contours.
- **ArcGIS Online**: Use their "Road Elevation Profile" app to click a road or draw a line to get an elevation profile with distance and elevation data.
- **Maptive**: Upload data, switch to a "Map + Terrain" base map to see elevation visually defined, and use their tools for more analysis.

- I want to suggest that if you have the opportunity, pre-drive the next section of the race route. This would be a huge advantage for your next day's drive.
- For instance, when we reach Round Rock, Texas, you might send your Advance Car to drive the first 20 miles of Day Three's route. This will help you determine if you want to drive in Georgetown, or trailer on to the Liberty Hill High School and begin your drive from that point.

DAY ONE - 153.6 Maximum Diving Miles Available

Fort Worth, TX to Palestine, TX

Sunday, July 19, 2026

TX 114, TX 51, TX 171, TX 22, U.S. 287, U.S. 79

D1-p1

0.0 Northwest ISD District Office
Turn left at traffic light in front of the District Office onto TX 114
Note: **There is a bump at the turn.**

0.9 Overpass

1.3 Light

1.4 Light
Four lane road **with shoulders**

4.3 Light.
Four lane divided highway. This is uphill.

4.7 Bridge

4.8 **Uphill**

6.5 City of Rhome

7.8 **Overpass**

8.2 Following the overpass, the road “Y”s” to the right. Take 114 Business Route.
Stay on Service Road. Do not proceed into town.

8.7 Stop Sign.
Use care! The stop sign is on a “downhill.”
Go straight through the intersection.

What you find in the Race Route Booklet

- (1) **Road conditions** (“flat road ahead,” “bumps,” etc.)
- (2) **Road configuration** (2-lane, 4-lane divided highway, 5-lane undivided highway, etc.)
- (3) Does the road have “**shoulders**” so that teams can pull over for repair or facilitate passing.
- (4) Is there a “**Passing Lane**” ahead
- (5) **Structures** along the road that will help insure that you are on the right course. (Schools, bridges, railroad crossings, rivers, etc.)

(6) Are there **Hills** ahead

- (a) “Uphill” implies gradual rise in the road
- (b) “Big Hill” implies a major hill that may require trailering
- (c) “Downhill” implies that serious braking may be required in the road ahead.
- (d) Pay attention to statements advising that trailering may be necessary. **You decide** based on your solar car.

(7) Rest Stops and Lunch Stops

Note that the rules provide that teams **must drive** into Rest Stops or Lunch Stops if at all possible. No body wants to see a solar car on a trailer.

- (a) Rest Stop – 15 minutes required
- (b) Lunch Stop – 30 minutes required

(8) Other Stops

Teams are always empowered to make any other stops necessary (re-charging, swapping batteries, repairs, restroom stops, etc.)

(9) “Race Time” does not stop when you make stops.

(10) Race Route Booklet Maps

The Race Booklet contains maps designed to help you navigate in communities. These are intended as supplements to your own maps.

(11) Never start a Race Day without thoroughly studying the Race Route Instructions and Your Maps. Know exactly where the road is going to turn long before you get to that point.

(12) If you go off-course, you must return to the point where you left the course, and then resume your drive. You get no credit for miles driven off course.

(13) The Judge will not inform you that you have left the race course.

(14) **Passing**

- (a) Prior to passing another solar car, be sure to tell your judge so that he can radio ahead to the approaching team your intend to pass.
- (b) When ready to pass, the “passing team’s” Advance Vehicle must blink their lights to give notice of the pass.
- (c) Remember that only the Advance Car, Solar Car, and 1st Chase Vehicle can make the pass at one time.

(15) Remember to use good **sportsmanship** when you pass another solar car. This is always “difficult” for the team being passed!

(16) Required Trailering

There are portions of the route where teams are required to trailer their solar cars. Use care when you pull of the road to trailer. Be sure to make full use of your Team Safety Officer and “flagging”.

(17) Driving Speed

The Rules require a minimum driving speed of **20 miles per hour**, but you should be geared to drive faster. This will help you create good will with other drivers on the road.

- (18) Be prepared to handle people gawking at you when they pass you on the road. **Drive defensively.**
- (19) Be prepared to handle curious observers when you pull off the road, or at rest stops. Designate a team member to greet the public, and be patient with the silly questions people will ask!

- (20) Remember that at 5:00 PM, if you have not completed that day's drive, you must trailer straight on to the "End-of-Day" Impound Area.
- (21) Teams should be at the Impound no later than 7:00 PM so that they can enjoy a dinner prepared by the community. This is our "community outreach time." Be sure to express gratitude for the meal or other amenities provided.
- (22) If you arrive after 7:00 PM, you are responsible for your own dinner.

(23) LODGING

- (a) The Solar Car Challenge offers lodging opportunities for teams. There is great value in this because you get special room rates, and breakfasts are provided.
- (b) Teams are responsible for their own lodging arrangements. Special room **blocks dissolve June 1st**.
- (c) Lodging listed in the race route booklet is located in close proximity to the Impound Site.

(24) MEALS

- (a) Teams can rely on breakfasts at their hotels.
- (b) Dinners will be provided to teams in the communities each night, provided that the team arrives at the Impound no later than 7:00 PM.
- (c) Teams make arrangements for lunches during the race day. Always plan ahead for lunch, or plan to bring your own lunches.
- (d) Remember that you are responsible for the Judge's lunch too. Whatever you eat, the judge eats.
- (e) The Race provides water at Rest and Lunch stops.

(25) RESTROOM Breaks

- (a) Teams are responsible for arranging for their own restroom breaks, but we encourage your planning to use facilities at Rest or Lunch stops. This saves you time!**
- (b) The Race tries to plan for restroom facilities at Rest or Lunch stops, but experience has shown that this is not always workable. Plan ahead.**

(26)Where-to-Be What-to-Do Document

This document should be used in parallel with the Race Route Booklet. It provides:

- (a) Location and time for all events during the Race
- (b) Sets out team obligations for Scrutineering, Race Day Activities, Rest Stops, Solar Car Displays, Special Events, etc.
- (c) Teams will be penalized for not following the guidelines in the Where-to-Be Document
- (d) The Where-to-Be Document will be published March 1st after Team Registrations are due.

**. . . Always be prepared for special,
fun events along the road**











Questions?