

TRAVEL APPROVAL FORM

Department: County Auditor

Event Name: TACA February On-the-Road Area
Training

Location: Graham, TX

Event Dates: 02/06/2025 - 02/07/2025

Purpose: ☐ Required Continuing Education/Certification
☒ Job Training
☐ Other: _____

Name of Attendees:

Kathy Rice Dwight Crowe

Vernita Luke _____

<p align="center">Court Decision:</p> <p align="center"><small>This section to be completed by County Judge's Office</small></p> <div align="center">  <p>2-10-25</p> </div>

Required Documents Checklist:

**** Same-Day Travel - Commissioners Court Approval is not required ****

Overnight Travel

- ☒ Travel Approval Form
- ☒ Registration Information or Confirmation
- ☒ Itinerary, Agenda, or Breakdown
- ☒ Hotel Information, Confirmation, or Hotel Reservation Request Form

For Out of State Travel, please also include:

- ☐ Cost Estimation Breakdown for Trip with Airfare, Rental Car, Meals, Hotel, Etc.
- ☐ Narrative as to why the Out of State Travel is necessary

Signature of Elected Official/Department Head:





Texas Association of County Auditors February On-the-Road Area Training

February 06, 2025 - February 07, 2025 multi-day

08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Wildcatter Ranch
6062 Hwy 16 South
Graham, TX 76450

For more information, contact Cheryl Roberts, Young County Auditor, at (940) 549-1786.

Registration

OVERVIEW

Young County Auditor's Office is proud to host the Texas Association of County Auditors' 2025 February On-the-Road Area Training in Graham! This two-day conference is a convenient way to earn continuing education credits during education sessions, as well as an opportunity to network with your peers. Space is limited, so register today to secure your spot.

Registration is scheduled to open **Thursday, Jan. 16**.

Check back often for training updates.

Registration Fees

Registration includes all education sessions.

Registration Fees	Registration
County auditor	\$150
County auditor assistants /staff	\$150

Continuing Education

The conference will offer *10.5 continuing education* credits for county auditors. No prerequisites are required for this class.

Payment Information

Please make checks payable to Texas Association of Counties.

Mail checks to:

Texas Association of County Auditors
c/o Texas Association of Counties
P.O. Box 2711
San Antonio, TX 78299

Special Services

To ensure that our event is ADA-compliant and accessible to all, please contact [Jackie Boone](#) or [Luz Hinojosa](#) at (800) 456-5974 if you need assistance.



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AGENDA

Thursday, February 6

7:30 - 8:15 a.m.: Breakfast at Buffalo Banquet Hall

Location: Buffalo Banquet Hall

8:15 - 8:30 a.m.: Welcome

8:30 - 9:20 a.m.: Risk Management

Presenter: Steve Owens, Risk Management Consultant I, Texas Association of Counties

Location: Ms. Addie's Classroom

9:20 - 10:10 a.m.: Federal and State Employment Laws

Presenter: Rita D. Fyffe, Human Resources Consultant, Texas Association of Counties

This session will provide a general overview of the most important federal and state employment laws supervisors need to be aware of when dealing with employees.

Location: Ms. Addie's Classroom

10:10 - 10:30 a.m.: Break

10:30 - 11:20 a.m.: Working Relations With Public Officials

Presenter: Nathan Craddock, County Auditor, Tom Green County

To be effective and efficient in our jobs as county auditors, we have to pay special attention to our relationships with other officials in the county. This session will take a closer look at the independent nature of our position, the tools we have available to make stronger and more trusting relationships, and how we can better communicate with other officials. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be able to describe the most important resources available to county auditors for building effective working relationships and recognize common hazards and dangers that can hinder an auditor's ability to gain the trust of other officials.

Location: Ms. Addie's Classroom

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Lunch at Buffalo Banquet Hall

On the menu: Mexican food theme-chicken and pork street tacos, corn tortillas, and chips and salsa

Location: Buffalo Banquet Hall

1 - 1:50 p.m.: Texas County & District Retirement System (TCDRS): A Perspective From the Employee Side

Presenter: Erika Aguirre, Employer Services Representative, TCDRS

The presenter will cover the TCDRS offerings through the lens of an employee.

Location: Buffalo Banquet Hall

1:50 - 3:05 p.m.: Cybersecurity



Presenter: Robert Baird, Founder and President, Indigent Healthcare Solutions (IHS)

This session will explore the latest trends and challenges in cybersecurity and best practices for organizations to safeguard their data and infrastructure

Location: Ms. Addie's Classroom

3:05 - 3:20 p.m.: Break



3:20 - 5 p.m.: More Than They Could Have Ever Dreamed Of: Lessons Learned from Geese and 12 Mighty Orphans



Presenter: J. Mark Warren, Training Consultant

The greatest accomplishments in life are not achieved by individuals alone, but by proactive people pulling together for the common good. People are not given life to simply take from one another. We are here to give. Our mission in life is to offer our gifts to benefit one another, to create mutual gain in the world. This is called teamwork, a win/win mindset stemming from a genuine commitment to the rules that allow it to happen. This presentation incorporates two stories, both powerful but lesser-known metaphors for giving and suffering a cause greater than oneself to achieve well beyond a common goal.

Location: Ms. Addie's Classroom

6 - 8 p.m.: Dinner at Buffalo Banquet Hall



On the menu: chicken fried steak, chicken fried chicken or mesquite grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and banana pudding

Location: Buffalo Banquet Hall



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AGENDA

Friday, February 7

7:30 - 8:15 a.m.: Breakfast at Buffalo Banquet Hall

Location: Buffalo Banquet Hall

8:15 - 8:30 a.m.: Welcome

8:30 - 9:20 a.m.: Ethics in the Workplace

This session will examine the critical role of ethics in the workplace, highlighting strategies for fostering a culture of integrity and transparency within the auditor's office. Attendees will gain practical insights on addressing ethical dilemmas unique to county auditor roles and promoting accountability.

Location: Ms. Addie's Classroom

9:20 - 10:10 a.m.: Legislative Insights: What's New?

Presenter: Pete Winckler, Legislative Consultant, Texas Association of Counties

Join us for a discussion about current legislation and our strategies for the upcoming 89th legislative session. Stay informed and prepared for the political landscape ahead.

Location: Ms. Addie's Classroom

10:10 - 10:30 a.m.: Break

10:30 - 11:20 a.m.: The ABCs of Artificial Intelligence

Presenter: Peter Cray, Senior IT and Data Services Manager, Texas Association of Counties

This session will introduce the fundamental concepts of artificial intelligence, covering key technologies such as machine learning, neural networks, and natural language processing. Attendees will learn how AI is transforming industries, along with practical applications and ethical considerations for integrating AI into business operations.

Location: Ms. Addie's Classroom

11:20 - 11:30 a.m.: Adjourn



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HOTEL

Host Hotel Information

Wildcatter Ranch

6062 Hwy 16 South
Graham, TX 76450

Rates: \$170 a night plus taxes for hotel room

\$190 a night plus taxes for cabin suites

Reservations: Once you register for the event, you will receive details to secure reservations at the host hotel. Rooms will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. You have the option to select hotel rooms or cabin suites. Once the host hotel is full, attendees can call the overflow hotels directly and make reservations.

Overflow Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Express

1581 Hwy 380 Bypass
Graham, TX 76450
(940) 521-9188

Rate: \$114 per night plus taxes

Note: Mention that you are with Young County to secure this rate.

The Middleton Hotel

509 Fourth St.
Graham, TX 76450
(817) 705-7403

Rate: \$100 per night plus taxes

Note: Use code yc24 to secure this rate.

Parking Rates

Complimentary daily self-parking at the Wildcatter Ranch.