

Houston Area #1 HOG

Director's Challenge 2026

Challenge Rules: Obtain a clear picture of you holding the Director's Picture from this guide in front of all six challenge locations by **December 15, 2026**. You must also turn in your mileage at Mancuso Crossroads for HOG Ride 365 at least once each quarter. A custom 2026 Chapter Challenge Coin will be presented to those who complete all the requirements of the challenge at the January 2027 Chapter Meeting.

Photo submissions should be sent to asstdirector1@Area1HOG.com.

Map link available at:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1rjUnwSLF8Rc_62dtovT39FzS1La0sYc&usp=sharing

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1. Montgomery Strap Iron Jail

Montgomery, TX

Montgomery, Texas became the first county seat of Montgomery County in 1837. In March of 1838 a house was rented to serve as a Courthouse and a “log keep” was built to serve as a jail and located next to the temporary courthouse. The jail was a one room structure that housed a metal cellblock consisting of two cells with metal bunk beds. This was an early style jail structure with flat metal strips referred to as strap iron. The cellblock is 9' by 6 ½' with equal sized cells. After Conroe became the county seat, the cellblock moved to a new location next to the railroad depot where it continued in use for some time. In 1981 it was moved to its current location by the Montgomery Civic Association.

Check-in: Montgomery Strap Iron Jail next to the Montgomery Community Center. FM 149 & College St, Montgomery, TX 77356.



Montgomery Strap Iron Jail – Montgomery, TX



Gary Brewer's Deck House, San Augustine, TX

2. Gary Brewer's Deck House

San Augustine, TX

Carpenter Gary Brewer has been adding multi-story decks and spiky things to his house since 2006. Sitting on the corner of the main street in San Augustine directly across the street from the county courthouse, this house rises above it all...but not any further since the city put in an ordinance to keep him from going higher. Gary still lives at this house but is working on a new residence so he can open this to the public.

Check-in: Gary Brewer's Deck House at 116 S. Broadway St, San Augustine, TX 75972. There is street parking directly across the street at the courthouse square.



The Bottle House in Pioneer Town, Wimberley, TX

3. The Bottle House – inside Pioneer Town

Wimberley, TX

Pioneer Town was dreamt up in the late 50's by Raymond Czichos as a place where guests of his ranch could step back in time and experience the Old West. What started as a vision became reality and grew over time. The town now contains a saloon, opera house, ice cream parlor, chapel, and a house made from over 9,500 bottles! If you stop by during the day, you are likely to find the ice cream parlor open so give yourself time to check out the town while you are here.

Check-in: Take a photo with the Bottle House. Pioneer Town is located at 333 Wayside Dr, Wimberley, TX 78676. Pioneer Town should still be open for walking around even if office is closed.

4. Athens DentalWorks

Athens, TX

Athens DentalWorks is a pediatric dental practice in Athens TX. Their goal has been to help children have a positive dental experience and encourage them to continue that care throughout their lives. To put their young patients at ease, they have developed some unique artwork and themes to their offices in East Texas. This office has a big flying saucer on the top with a three-eyed alien welcoming the patients.

Check-in: Get a photo with the alien on top of the building at 6300 Texas Hwy 19 South, 6300 TX-19 BUS, Athens, TX 75751



Athens DentalWorks, Athens, TX

5. Spindletop Monument

Beaumont, TX

This monument celebrates the oil gusher that was discovered at Spindletop Hill in 1901. This discovery led to the modern oil industry by proving that oil would be trapped under salt domes that we could drill through to tap into those reserves. The drilling crew hit a "gusher" that spewed crude oil hundreds of feet into the air transforming both Texas and our world.

Check-in: **Near the Spindletop Gladys-City Boomtown Museum at 5550 Jimmy Simmons Blvd, Beaumont, TX 77705**



Spindletop Monument and Gusher Simulator – Beaumont, TX



Cottonland Castle – Waco, TX

6. The Cottonland Castle

Waco, TX

After a couple failed starts on this home, a group of investors hired Roy E. Lane in the 1910's to build a castle fashioned after a small castle on the Rhine River in Germany. Roy built this castle with 3 stories, a basement, eight fireplaces, servant's quarters, and a tower. The castle is built with Caen stone from France, Carrera Marble from Italy, and Honduran Mahogany paneling. Through the decades, it started to fall into disrepair, and a string of owners found it too expensive to keep up the residence. Chip and Joanna Gaines were finally able to acquire it and did a TV series *Fixer Upper: The Castle* on the restoration. Tours are available if purchased in advance from Magnolia.com.

Check-in: **The Cottonland Castle, 161 S 33rd Street, Waco, TX 75710**