

## Frequently Asked Questions About TEEAC

Q. What is TEEAC?

A. TEEAC stands for the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee. Originally established by the 72<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature in Senate Bill 1340, TEEAC still serves educators and informal science providers throughout the state.

Q. What is the TEEAC Certificate of Recognition?

A. To promote environmental education throughout the state, TEEAC is offering teachers recognition for participating in environmental awareness workshops and seminars. When teachers take approved workshops, courses, or seminars at a TEEAC- endorsed site or program, they receive credit towards an environmental education Certificate of Recognition. Teachers collect this credit in the form of stickers, which they affix on a Course Verification Form. Each sticker is printed with the name of the institution that offered the professional development, the title of the workshop, the date it was taken, and the number of contact hours. When 45 contact hours of instruction have been completed, the teacher may send a copy of the Coursework Verification Form to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and receive the certificate.

Q. Is this a teaching endorsement?

A. No, it is not. Texas does not have a teaching endorsement in environmental education.

Q. Do workshops taken in other states count towards the certificate?

A. No, workshops and courses must be taken in Texas through a TEEAC-endorsed program.

Q. May I take the same workshop more than once and credit for it both times?

A. No, you may not. The purpose of issuing the Certificate of Recognition is to encourage a broad awareness of a variety of environmental issues. Teachers are encouraged to take courses from as many of the 10 core themes in environmental education as possible. The 10 Core Themes of Environmental Education adopted by TEEAC are Environmental Health & Hazards, Soil & Land Use, Wildlife & Domestic Animals, Air Quality, Human Populations & Society, Water Quality, Plants, Food & Fiber, Communities & Ecosystems, and Aesthetics and the Built Environment.

Q. The presenter at one of my workshops mentioned a matrix. What is the matrix?

A. TEEAC asks all affiliated workshop providers to describe how their workshop fits into a matrix which has ecological concepts on one axis and application of the ecological concepts on the other axis. The ecological concepts are divided between (1) abiotic: thermodynamics, dynamic earth models, and cycles, and (2) biotic: trophics, niches, carrying capacity, population dynamics, limiting factors, range of tolerance, natural selection and adaptation, evolution, succession, and biodiversity. The applications of ecological concepts are divided into three areas: (1) environmental philosophy which includes balance of nature, conservation attitudes, and conservation responsibilities; (2) human impact which includes human consumption patterns, historical perspective of human impact, population expansion, and human settlement patterns; and (3) resource

management which includes resources, usage consequences, renewable resources impacts, and non-renewable resources impacts.

Q. I took a workshop at a program that is listed as TEEAC endorsed but didn't get a sticker. Is it too late to get one?

A. Not necessarily. You may be eligible for a sticker. Ask the provider of the workshop to send in a Program Description Form to Environmental Education Coordinator, Texas Education Agency, 1701 North Congress, Austin, TX 78701. If the workshop is approved, and you are able to provide proof of attendance, stickers may be issued retroactively.

Q. Can I send my transcripts and other proof that I attended environmental workshops to the environmental education coordinator at the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and have stickers sent to me?

A. No, only the provider of the workshop may issue the stickers.

Q. I've attended excellent workshops at places that were not affiliated with TEEAC. Can I get sticker for those workshops?

A. No, you may not, unless the provider chooses to affiliate with TEEAC. Only TEEAC-endorsed programs give stickers toward the certificate. You may want to mention the TEEAC program to your workshop provider. If they affiliate with TEEAC, they may offer retroactive stickers for workshops. Either you or the provider may get information about how to become a TEEAC-endorsed provider by contacting the environmental education coordinator at TEA.

Q. There are no TEEAC-endorsed programs near my town. How can I work toward a certificate?

A. If there are no TEEAC-endorsed programs near you, you have several options:

1. Check with local nature centers, colleges, museums, and other workshop providers to see if they would be interested in becoming a TEEAC endorsed program.
2. Travel to environmental education workshops.
3. Become a provider – your school district or organization could offer TEEAC-approved workshops. If you are interested in learning more about becoming affiliated with TEEAC, contact TEA at the address listed below.

Q. Can I get TEEAC credit for workshops I teach?

A. Yes you can one credit per workshop. You may not receive credit for a workshop more than one time.

Q. If I still have questions, who can I call?

A. Call Irene Pickhardt, (512) 463-9581, or email her at [irene.pickhardt@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:irene.pickhardt@tea.state.tx.us).