

The Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee

The Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC) cooperates with a network of providers of environmental education professional development, including universities, local and state agencies, museums, and nature centers. The TEEAC Providers network helps ensure teacher professional development is educationally sound and consistent with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Teachers and other educators may take approved workshops offered by TEEAC Providers. When 45 hours of professional development are completed and documented, the educator may email Liz Baker at Liz.Baker@tea.texas.gov to receive a TEEAC Certificate of Recognition. A current list of TEEAC Providers is found below. Directly contact a provider for workshop information.

TEEAC Providers may apply for workshop approval by completing a Program Description Form. Request a form from Liz Baker by emailing Liz.Baker@tea.texas.gov.

TEEAC Providers 2023-24:

Alamo Area Master Naturalist, Starting Out Wild Advanced Training

Alamo Area Master Naturalist (AAMN) provides a two-hour workshop for early childhood educators who teach toddlers (1-3 years old). Each nature-based workshop provides access to online resources and curriculum for the Starting Out Wild program created in San Antonio, Texas. Educators will apply strategies for leading toddlers in using their senses to safely conduct indoor and outdoor investigations. At the end of the training, the educator participants will be able to demonstrate toddler activities that facilitate children's experiences through movement and senses. AAMN also introduces vocabulary, literacy, and nature concepts, and engages parents and toddlers in indoor and outdoor nature activities. Healthy snacks and educational-based crafts are included.

Contact: Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy at 210-492-7472, www.philhardbergerpark.org, <http://txmn.org/alamo>

Aquatic Sciences Adventure Camp /Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center

The Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center at Texas State University offers summer camps for students ages 9-15. The program emphasizes the principles of and field experiences in aquatic biology and water chemistry. Day camps and overnight sessions are available. Professional development is offered to teachers who assist Texas State University staff with camp activities.

Contact: EARDC Education Office, 512-245-6176, eardc_education@txstate.edu, <http://www.eardc.txstate.edu/>, <http://www.eardc.txstate.edu/education-center/camp.htm>

Angler Education Instructor Workshop, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Program

This free 4–6-hour workshop is open to anyone 18 or older interested in teaching fishing skills in their communities. The program provides the curriculum, materials, equipment (where available), and support to help volunteers successfully introduce youth and their families to fishing. Topics include fish identification and fish habitats; stewardship of aquatic resources; equipment, knots, and tackle assembly; casting techniques; fishing safety, ethics, and regulations. Ideal for teachers, youth group leaders, after-school or camp staff, and community volunteers. Contact: Karen Marks, Aquatic Education Manager, 512-389-4732

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is the national office for Project WILD and related programs. Texas Parks and Wildlife administers professional development for Project WILD (focusing on wildlife), Aquatic WILD (aquatic species and habitats), Growing Up WILD (early childhood), Flying WILD (focusing on birds), and Climate & Wildlife (climate adaptation). These cross-curricular programs range in grade levels from Pre-K through 12th grade and include topics in wildlife, habitat, water, migratory birds, and learning outdoors.

Contact: projectwild@fishwildlife.org, or see www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild.

Audubon Texas

Audubon Texas is a hub for conservation action and engagement. As a trusted partner, Audubon uses science, on-the-ground conservation, education, advocacy, and community engagement to build sustainable, resilient communities for birds and people. We operate three urban Audubon Centers in Cedar Hill, Dallas, and San Antonio, and own the Sabal Palm Sanctuary in Brownsville, operated by the Gorgas Science Foundation. Annually, each of our urban centers welcomes thousands of students and visitors to access the outdoors, enjoy birding, and participate in conservation education programs. Audubon brings STEM-based classroom lessons to life in the field, taking a fun, hands-on approach to developing future conservationists, while reinforcing knowledge essential to student success in school. Plan your next nature-based adventure and visit tx.audubon.org to find the center or program closest to you.

Contact: Email audubontexas@audubon.org; <https://tx.audubon.org/programs/studentprograms>

Austin Nature and Science Center

The Austin Nature and Science Center (ANSC) provides educational and recreational opportunities to increase awareness of and appreciation for science and nature in an informal setting. ANSC offers TEKS-aligned Science programming in-person (at your school or on our site). Our programs are designed to help teachers meet the science standards for their students in a natural, fun, hands-on learning environment. For program descriptions and registration information, visit www.austintexas.gov/ansc and select the School Programs tab.

Austin Watershed Protection Department

The City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department provides school outreach for Grades 5-12, with a focus on informed decision-making about choices that impact Austin's water quality, unique habitat and species, plus flood safety. Education-related offerings are TEKS-aligned and include field trips, presentations, kits, curriculum, and teacher training in the Austin area. For more information, visit: www.austintexas.gov/Watershed/YouthEd.

Contact: Sara.Heilman@austintexas.gov or Jessica.Gordon@austintexas.gov

Austin Youth River Watch

Austin Youth River Watch is an after-school and summer program that transforms and inspires youth through environmental education, community engagement, and adventure. Our students, the River Watchers, collect, analyze, and publish water-quality data from Austin-area streams and rivers, and report their data to local and statewide agencies. Additionally, River Watchers are guided through learning experiences with community partners to design and implement service projects that improve water quality and quantity through ecological and hydrological enhancement activities. Finally, River Watchers experience adventures such as camping, canoeing, and caving.

Contact: Fidel Campuzano Gonzalez, fidel@riverwatchers.org, 512-665-5428, <http://riverwatchers.org/>

The Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research, Baylor University

The Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research (CRASR) is a research and education partnership between Baylor University and the City of Waco focused on aquatic resources. CRASR provides water education and outreach experiences and teacher professional development through a variety of activities and workshops. CRASR connects researchers, college students and K-12 audiences through offerings such as "Meet an Aquatic Scientist" virtual classroom visits, weekly after-school girls science clubs, summer teacher workshops, and support for citizen science water monitoring.

Contact: Melissa Mullins 254-710-2382, melissa_mullins@baylor.edu, <http://www.baylor.edu/crasr/>

Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF)

Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF) is an educational nonprofit working to integrate sustainability into the K-12 learning experience. Our programs offer a multitude of ways to bring sustainability education into the classroom and school communities. CELF's integrated approach transforms learning into an authentic exploration of real-world problems, centered in and around the school community. Using sustainability as a guiding framework, we help schools embed place- and project-based learning into existing curriculum, across all subject areas through engaging professional development with year-round support, workshops, summer institutes, and innovative programming to develop the next generation of environmental problem-solvers.

Contact: Lisa Gianukos, 832- 477-4583; lisagianukos@celfeducation.org; <https://celfeducation.org/>

Cibolo Nature Center & Herff Farm

Cibolo Nature Center and Herff Farm, located in Boerne, Texas, is a 162-acre nature preserve and historic homestead providing science- and agriculture-oriented education for school groups with our Outdoor Classroom and Farm Classroom programming. Attend adult education and teacher workshops, family and children's programs, summer camps, field trips, citizen science research, volunteer opportunities, a farmers' market, and hike our trails while exploring forests, prairies, a marsh, and the Cibolo Creek.

Contact: Stephanie Regets, 830-388-7680, www.cibolo.org

Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) bases its Delta Discovery education program at the 11,500+ acre Nueces Delta Preserve in Odem, TX. We offer discovery-based, TEKS-aligned field experiences for area students to explore, immersed in our restored and conserved South Texas ecosystems. We also fulfill outreach requests from schools and community partners with engaging presentations. Our program offers a variety of workshops for K-12 teachers and informal educators. These collaborative opportunities provide educators with added insight into the local ecology of our bays & estuaries and include supplies & curriculum to successfully implement meaningful science experiences with their students. Educators may choose from fall or spring one-day workshops or summer intensives. Schoolwide in-services are available upon request. Please visit our website for a full list of workshops.

Contact: Education Department Staff at 361-673-6829 or education@cbbep.org, <http://www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org>

Colorado River Alliance

With a mission to champion the long-term vitality of the Texas Colorado River, our education programs serve about 9,000 elementary and middle-school students each year. Our Redbud Program has been called one of the best field trips in Central Texas, engaging young water scientists (primarily grades 3-5) in a 4-hour program focused on the water cycle, river stewardship, water conservation, and understanding the Colorado River and its Highland Lakes. Our Mobile River Program, which won TCEQ's Environmental Excellence Award in 2017, features a high-tech water-science-center-on-wheels (housed inside a 42' trailer) that travels to middle-school campuses, delivering not just an unforgettable museum experience on-site but also classroom models, TEKS-aligned curriculum units, and teacher-created STEM lesson plans. With content covering everything from STEM careers in water, pollution and conservation, current water issues, and beyond, our goal is to change how citizens across the state think about both their water and their community's lifeblood, the Texas Colorado River.

Contact: Adrienne Longnecker, 512-983-5979, adrienne@coloradoriver.org, www.coloradoriver.org

Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Program

Looking for a way to fund your off-site field investigation trips? The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) is a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant program. CO-OP's mission is to engage underserved populations in TPWD activities and programs. CO-OP grant funding is available to schools and any tax-exempt organization to provide community outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental education experiences. Grant funds can be used for programming expenses such as transportation, staff, food, scientific or outdoor recreation equipment and program materials. Application date opens August 1st and closes November 1st each year. <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>

Contact: Carly Blankenship, 512-389-8209, carly.blankenship@tpwd.texas.gov or Jessica Lagalo, 512-389-8254, Jessica.Lagalo@tpwd.texas.gov

The Dallas Arboretum

The Dallas Arboretum is a 66-acre garden located on White Rock Lake and includes the 8-acre Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden. The mission of the Dallas Arboretum's education team is to cultivate a connection to nature and inspire environmental stewardship through garden-based experiences. The Arboretum offers a variety of professional learning opportunities both at the garden and at your campus to support Earth and Life TEKS. Visit our website to see current offerings. Custom workshops available on request.

Contact: education@dallasarboretum.org; <https://www.dallasarboretum.org/pd>

Updated 2023

Dallas ISD STEM Environmental Education Center

The STEM Environmental Education Center is a 500-acre academic facility located in Seagoville, TX. The center includes more than four miles of nature trails, a 26,000-sq. ft. facility with interactive exhibits, a 70-seat ecology theater, four science laboratories, a live animals laboratory, outdoor classroom, fossil pavilion, working barn with a variety of livestock, vegetable, flower, and herb gardens, and an astronomical observatory. The center's instructional programs, led by experienced teachers and naturalists, are fully aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science, and designed to help teachers at all grade levels meet the Texas Education Agency's requirement that students plan and implement both laboratory and field investigations during science instruction. The mission of the STEM Environmental Education Center is to help diverse learners develop an awareness, appreciation, and concern for the environment and use 21st-century knowledge and skills to make informed, responsible decisions, solve current environmental problems, and prevent new ones.

Contact: Mark Broughton, 972-749-6900, mbroughton@dallasisd.org,
<https://www.dallasisd.org/Domain/96>

Dallas Zoo

The Dallas Zoo is dedicated to creating a better world for animals. Located just south of downtown Dallas, it is the largest zoological experience in Texas. The Zoo has been accredited continuously by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums since 1985, and features a 106-acre park, thousands of animals, and an education department that offers programs for all ages. School groups can sign up for a Wild Walk, which is a 45-minute Science TEKS-aligned tour led by a Dallas Zoo educator.

Address: 650 S. RL Thornton Freeway, Dallas TX 75203, www.DallasZoo.com
 Contact: Marti Copeland, 469-554-7300, Education@DallasZoo.com

The Delores Fenwick Nature Center, The City of Pearland

The Delores Fenwick Nature Center (DFNC) is Pearland's newest environmental education facility. The Center provides hands-on educational opportunities to the community through programs, workshops, and field trips. A state-of-the-art classroom accommodates 50 guests for an indoor learning experience. An outdoor pavilion provides outdoor learning and the attached picnic tables overlooking the ponds make for a nice sitting area. The Great Room features live animal exhibits, touchable bio-facts, and a craft table. The DFNC is surrounded by the John Hargrove Environmental Complex which is home to many native and migratory bird species, has 2 onsite rookeries, and 2 miles of gravel walking trails. Admission to the Nature Center and the surrounding trails is FREE. Programs and workshops are subject to additional fees. We offer a variety of TEKS aligned field trips, outreach, and distance learning programs for K-12.

Contact: Katie Boughal, 281-652- 1960, kboughal@pearlandtx.gov,
<https://www.parks.pearlandtx.gov/facilities/delores-fenwick-nature-center>

Updated 2023

The Ditch Water Discovery Center

The Ditch Water Discovery Center at Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District provides experiential learning opportunities to increase awareness about groundwater and conservation. Students and educators will learn about groundwater, aquifers, native plant systems, and riparian systems through the lens of conservation. Our programs are designed to incorporate hands-on learning opportunities with the Texas Essential Knowledge Standards to extend beyond the classroom. K-12 field trips are available as well as educator continuing education opportunities.

Contact: Stephanie Keith, (254) 965-2631, stephanie@exploreditch.org; www.exploreditch.org

EcoRise

[EcoRise](#) mobilizes a new generation of leaders to design healthy, just, and thriving communities for all. They offer a range of curricula and programs for students, teachers, school districts, and partners, designed to advance environmental literacy, sustainable schools, and equitable access to green career pathways. You can see example student-driven projects [here](#) and [here](#).

Contact: support@ecorise.org, <https://ecorise.org>

Edwards Aquifer Authority

The Edwards Aquifer Authority's (EAA) education program offers a wide range of resources for students and educators to explore the Edwards Aquifer system and related issues such as water conservation, endangered species, and aquifer protection. The Education Outreach Center is the EAA's first permanent facility dedicated exclusively to offering educational instruction and activities. The permanent location for exhibits and programs at the Education Outreach Center is at Morgan's Wonderland Camp. The EOC features unique learning experiences that will broaden imaginations through participation in innovative and inclusive STEAM opportunities. Additionally, the EAA has geologists, hydrologists, biologists, mathematicians, and engineers who can discuss STEAM careers and how they are vital to the EAA's mission of managing, enhancing, and protecting our aquifer. All presentations, materials, and resources are provided free of charge to schools and organizations within our jurisdiction.

Contact: Sarah Valdez, 210-222-2204, education@edwardsaquifer.org, www.edwardsaquifer.org

Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center/Aquatic Sciences Adventure Camp

The Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center at Texas State University offers summer camps for students ages 9-15. The program emphasizes the principles of and field experiences in aquatic biology and water chemistry. Day camps and overnight sessions are available. Professional development is offered to teachers who assist Texas State University staff with camp activities.

Contact: EARDC Education Office, 512-245-6176, eardc_education@txstate.edu,
<http://www.eardc.txstate.edu/>, <http://www.eardc.txstate.edu/education-center/camp.html>

Edinburg Scenic Wetlands and World Birding Center

A 40-acre wetlands oasis amid a lively urban landscape, the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands has watchable wildlife year-round in a setting friendly to birds, butterflies, and other water-loving creatures. We offer programs for PreK-12 students on a diverse array of topics in the environmental and natural resource sciences. The Center offers a 3.5-acre native butterfly garden, wetlands and outdoor classrooms, an interpretive center, and more. Trained staff offer introductory and advanced birding courses, wetland courses, insect and reptile courses, plant courses and professional development for educators.

Contact: Veronica Guzman. 956-381-9922 vguzman@cityofedinburg.com; www.Edinburgwbc.org

Elm Fork Education Center, UNT Denton

Elm Fork Education Center is the public education branch of the University of North Texas' environmental programs. The mission of the center is to develop and present premier environmental education programs that provide investigative encounters for students of all ages in field and discovery experiences through school day field trips, family science events, summer science camps, and professional development opportunities. Elm Fork Education Center is a Project WET Host Institution, and a Texas Aquatic Science Certified Field Site.

Contact: Brian Wheeler, 940-565-4912, Marti Lathrop, 940-369-8936, elmfork@unt.edu,
<https://efec.unt.edu/>

Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH)

The Environmental Institute of Houston offers a variety of workshops for educators and members of the community. We focus on a wide array of environmental programs including the development, use and upkeep of school habitat gardens; Wonders of Wetlands (WOW), Project Wild, and Project Learning Tree curricula; and Rainwater harvesting and Rain Garden workshops. We offer summer camps; programs and field trips for scouting, school, and church groups; and a monthly Youth Birding Program. Our site, with demonstration Habitat Gardens, indoor and outdoor classrooms, and large nature preserve campus is ideal for hiking and birding. EIH also administers the Texas Envirothon program, a state-wide environmental education competition for high school students.

Contact: Wendy Reistle, 281- 283-3045; email: eih@uhcl.edu, Reistle@uhcl.edu,
<https://www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/education/>

Fischer Park

The City of New Braunfels – Explore the City of New Braunfels’ largest park with 62 acres of Blackland prairie restoration, a monarch waystation, and a fishing/kayaking pond. Teachers may opt to receive TEEAC credit while accompanying their students on an environmental education field trip. Students participate in onsite TEKS aligned activities that can be expanded upon back in the classroom. Activity options include fishing, kayaking, furs & skulls, pond exploration, insect catching, nature hikes, and more.

Contact: hplatz@newbraunfels.gov or 830-221-4378; <https://www.newbraunfels.gov/3379/Fischer-Park>

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Fort Worth Botanic Garden Education Department provides meaningful education experiences through a variety of student, teacher, and family programs that help children and adults renew their sense of wonder and discover the natural world around them. Located in Fort Worth’s Cultural District, FWBG offers field trips that connect students to the environment through STEM, family story times, unique teacher professional development, exploratory summer camps, adult education, and much more.

Contact: Sheryl Schickedanz: sschickedanz@fwbg.org or 817-681-7641

Fort Worth Zoo

Education is an important component to conservation at the Fort Worth Zoo. We want the Zoo to be a useful resource for educators and a learning experience for students. Resources are important for students' understanding of animals, science, and conservation. There are beneficial resources (correlated to the TEKS) for you at the Fort Worth Zoo. We offer a wide range of activities for students and teachers, from field trips to virtual classrooms. Explore our website and discover what the Zoo can do for you.

Contact: Kathy Dorris, Education Director, Billy Martin Assistant Director of Education, 817-759- 7200, education@fortworthzoo.org, <https://www.fortworthzoo.org/>

Gilmont Outdoor School

Located in East Texas, just north of Tyler and Longview, Gilmont Outdoor School provides a Residential Program (4 days and 3 nights) for fifth graders and Day Programs for K-12 students. Nature is the classroom as trained teachers guide classes through data collection, team building, problem solving, and drawing conclusions about the natural world through aquatic biology, astronomy, forestry, pioneering, orienteering, and geology activities. Professional development for teachers is offered in partnership with school districts.

Contact: Crosby Palmer, Program Director, 903-797-6400, crosby@gilmont.org, <https://www.gilmont.org/outdoorschool.html>

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority offers a wide variety of educational resources for the students and educators of the Guadalupe River Basin. Curricula supplements, online modules, posters, and maps are all provided free of charge within GBRA's statutory ten-county district of Kendall, Comal, Hays, Guadalupe, Caldwell, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties. GBRA also provides a wide variety of outdoor learning opportunities, based on the current TEKS standards. We have water quality specialists, engineers, water- and wastewater-treatment plant operators, and many more professionals that can conduct outreach to students through virtual interfaces.

Contact: Elizabeth Gutierrez at eagutierrez@gbra.org, 830-379-5822, <https://www.gbra.org/education/>

The Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary

Located north of Dallas in Collin County, The Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary's 289 acres of wooded, prairie and wetland ecosystems allow for a variety of programs that help connect families, students, and teachers with nature. In addition to self-guided visits to our museum and trails, we offer live animal presentations, guided trails including monthly seasonal bird walks, TEKS-aligned "field investigations," earth science programs using a 4' diameter GeoGlobe display system, preschool and homeschool classes, scout workshops, teacher workshops, outreach programming, and seasonal special events.

Contact: Angela Baron, Education Director, at abaron@heardmuseum.org, www.heardmuseum.org

The H. E. Butt Foundation Outdoor School

The H. E. Butt Foundation Outdoor School partners with San Antonio area schools to help teachers, students, and communities get outdoors and connect with their natural spaces. Located on the headwaters of the Frio River, school led, in-canyon programming is focused on providing opportunities for schools to develop outdoor programming that best serves their students. Lessons for students are focused on student learning and aligned with the TEKS. In San Antonio we provide opportunities for teachers to engage in new learning opportunities that will equip them to take their students outdoors in their own space.

Contact: 830-315-9250, <https://foundationoutdoorschool.org/>, Kim Williams kwilliams@hebfdn.org or Chris Richardson Cirichardson@hebfdn.org

Houston Audubon Raptor and Education Center @ Sims Bayou

Houston Audubon Raptor and Education Center @ Sims Bayou provides educational programs on birds, bird conservation and Texas wildlife. Programs are available for all ages including youth (PreK – 12), college students, educators, and adult audiences. Programs feature live birds of prey and other wildlife. Outreach programs are delivered across the greater Houston Galveston region and virtually via Zoom. Avian Academy is a three-day educator workshop for formal and informal educators available each spring and late summer.

Contact: Mary Anne Morris, 713.640.2407 mamorris@houstonaudubon.org

The Houston Museum of Natural Science

Generate a love of learning at the HMNS. We offer TEKS-aligned curriculum for each of our 12 permanent Exhibit Halls (including the largest Hall of Paleontology in the U.S.) a Butterfly Center, Giant Screen Theatre, and a Planetarium along with frequent world class Special Exhibits. The main location is adjacent to Hermann Park with a satellite venue in Sugar Land. HMNS also owns the George Observatory located in wildlife-friendly Brazos Bend State Park. Field trips to any of the venues are heavily discounted when booked in advance for a minimum of 10 or more students and/or educators. HMNS offers numerous development opportunities throughout the year, including Shell Educators' Previews, Maker Labs, GT workshops, Adult Education programs, annual Educators Events, and Sensory Friendly events.

Contact: Cathy Walton, Lead Marketing Coordinator, 713-639-4617, cwalton@hmns.org; www.hmns.org

Houston Zoo

The Houston Zoo values creating meaningful relationships with educators and students in our community. Our Saving Wildlife School Partner Program focuses on building long-term relationships with K-12 campuses. Embedded within these partnerships are opportunities for the educators at each partner school to receive professional development from our nature and wildlife experts at the Zoo. Saving Wildlife School Partner Program forms relationships between Houston-area schools and the Zoo to empower students to save animals in the wild. Whether it's focusing the relationship on the school's mascot species or creating wildlife-friendly habitats on school grounds, we connect the students to actions they can take to help reduce threats to animals in the wild. Examples can include encouraging and supporting students to reduce their single use plastic use by using reusable water bottles to save sea turtles or facilitating a paper reduction and recycling campaign to help protect bobcat and Houston Toad habitat. Each action campaign is unique and taps into student's interest and passions.

Contact: Houston Zoo Conservation Education, 713-533-6739, education@houstonzoo.org, <https://www.houstonzoo.org/>

HummerBird Celebration in Rockport and Fulton, Texas

Educators are invited to celebrate the fall migration of the ruby-throated hummingbirds and all birds during this 4-day event focused on birds. Learn at field trips, lectures, boat trips, bus trips, vendor halls and outdoor exhibits. Educators can visit the backyards of Hummer Homes on a self-guided Hummer Home Tour. School groups are welcome.

Contact: Shanon Biggerstaff, Tourism Coordinator, Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, 361-729-6445 tourism@1rockport.org, www.rockporthummingbird.com

John Bunker Sands Wetland Center

The John Bunker Sands Wetland Center is in the middle of a 2000-acre constructed wetland only 30 minutes from downtown Dallas. Our nature center offers immersive in-depth field study experiences to elementary, middle, and high school students in wetland ecology, wildlife ecosystems, and water conservation. All our classes are TEKS aligned. We also offer teacher development workshops such as Project WET, Wonders of Wetlands, and Project WILD.

Contact: Carol Garrison, Education Coordinator, 972-474-9100, cgarrison@wetlandcenter.com

John Paul Landing Environmental Education Center

John Paul Landing Environmental Education Center is in Harris County Precinct 4 John Paul Landing Park. The 865-acre park sits on land that was historically part of the Katy Prairie. It features a lake designed for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and flood retention. We offer guided bird and nature walks, nature presentations, and scheduled *A Closer Look at Nature* classes for school-aged children. These opportunities improve observation skills, encourage students to take a closer look at the natural world, and enhance their appreciation of science. The center is also available for science-related workshops for teachers.

Contact: Megan Ahlgren or Kendra Kocab, 713-274-3131, johnpaullanding@hcp4.net, hcp4.net/jpl

Keep Austin Beautiful

Keep Austin Beautiful leads hands-on educational activities focusing on recycling, composting, waste reduction practices, and protecting watersheds. The organization loans tools and cleanup supplies for service projects and mobilizes the Austin community to raise awareness and promote environmental stewardship. We inspire and educate all Austinites to volunteer together, beautify green spaces, clean waterways, and reduce waste every day.

Contact: education@keepaustinbeautiful.org, www.keepaustinbeautiful.org

Kleb Woods Nature Preserve and Historic Farm

The 133-acre Harris County Precinct 4 Kleb Woods Nature Preserve and Historic Farm includes trails, a nature center, and a historic homestead. We offer guided nature walks, history tours, and educational activities for all ages. We have regularly scheduled *A Closer Look at Nature* and *A Closer Look at History* classes for school-aged children that improve observation skills, encourage students to take a closer look at the natural world, and enhance their appreciation of science and local history. We provide active and engaging field trip opportunities for schools, and the nature center is also available for history and science-related workshops for teachers.

Contact: Megan Ahlgren or Kendra Kocab, 281-357-5324, klebwoods@hcp4.net, hcp4.net/kleb

Updated 2023

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is in southwest Austin and is an organized research unit of the University of Texas at Austin. It provides educational programs for children and adults that teach people about their natural surroundings and how to grow native plants in their own backyards. We conduct professional development classes that provide CPE hours.

Contact: Julie Graham, 512-232-0249, jgraham@wildflower.org, <https://www.wildflower.org/learn>

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Outreach programs for Cameron County schools, field trip opportunities (tours on your bus or custom programs).

Contact: 956-748-3607 x119 or 956-244-2019, George_garcia@fws.gov;
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Laguna_Atascosa/visit/for_educators.html

LISDOLA (Lewisville ISD Outdoor Learning Area)

LISDOLA offers learning experiences for LISD students and the community using the 84-acre site featuring comfortable walking trails, an outdoor interactive watershed model, Earth History interactive center/trail, team building stations, and flexible curriculum options. LISDOLA provides fun and powerful learning in a classroom without walls.

Contact: Shelly Robinson, Environmental Learning Administrator, 469.496.7442 or lisdola@lisd.net,
www.lisd.net/environmentallearning

Long Acres Ranch

Long Acres Ranch is roughly 800 acres of open green space located in the heart of Fort Bend County and surrounded by neighborhoods. With collaboration from Texas A&M, TPWD, Fishing's Future, and more, this property offers the local schools a unique opportunity for an outdoor, nature-inspired educational experience. When schools are not visiting, we host Hunter Education and Angler Education regularly on the property and participate in 4H, NASP and SAR. Long Acres Ranch is private property and requires reservations or an appointment to visit.

Contact: October Smith- manager; 281-239-7998; osmith@longacresranch.org; <https://longacresranch.org>

Lubbock Lake Landmark

Lubbock Lake Landmark is an active archaeological site and nature preserve. Archeological evidence reveals 12,000 years of continuous human occupation. Through environmental education curriculum, the natural world is explored promoting environmental literacy and providing K-12 and higher education students and educators with tools that encourage lifelong learning, science inquiry in a natural environment, and a greater understanding of the Southern High Plains.

Contact: Susan Rowe, 806-742-1116; www.lubbocklake.ttu.edu; email: landmark.education@ttu.edu

McDonald Observatory

The University of Texas at Austin's McDonald Observatory provides K-12 teacher professional development workshops for educators in astronomy, earth and space science, and physics.

Workshops vary by theme, but all include hands-on TEKS-aligned activities, night-sky observing, and visits to research-class telescopes. McDonald Observatory also offers K-12 student field experiences on site, and remote videoconferencing with classrooms.

Contact: Judy Meyer, 432-426-4153, email: teachers@mcdonaldobservatory.org;
<http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/learn>

McKinney Roughs Nature Park

Situated just east of Austin, nestled among the Lost Pines of Bastrop County and the Texas Colorado River, McKinney Roughs Nature Park is a special place where the natural resources of several ecosystems converge. McKinney Roughs Nature Park, owned and operated by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), is home to hundreds of plant and animal species living within 1,100 acres of rolling box canyons, wildflower meadows, and lazy river bends of the park. We offer a variety of single or multi-day natural science education programs related to wildlife, water conservation, land stewardship, and renewable energy, as well as recreation activities like rafting, kayaking, and a challenge course. Onsite dormitory housing is available for groups.

Contact Nicholas Cowey, 512-303-5073, email: Nicholas.Cowey@lcra.org or outdoorprograms@lcra.org,
<https://www.lcra.org/parks/mckinney-roughs-nature-park/>

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment-Texas State University

Spring Lake Educational Field Trips -Students have the chance to explore the beauty of historic Spring Lake and learn about the importance of preserving our natural resources through a glass- bottom boat tour, wetlands boardwalk, discovery hall aquarium exhibit, and hands-on TEKS aligned activities. We specialize in interpreter-led tours that can be modified to meet your specific learning goals. Teachers may opt to receive TEEAC credit while their students are on an environmental education interpreter led field trip at The Meadows Center.

Contact: Phone: 512-245-7540; Email: springlaketours@txstate.edu; Website: <http://www.meadowscenter.txstate.edu/Education/EducationalTours.html>

The National Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The National Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offers teacher training workshops throughout the year. These dynamic professional development workshops are presented in a fun, interactive format and feature the TEKS-aligned, easy-to- implement and evidence-based JMG school gardening curricula. Trainings events focus on one or more of the JMG elementary and middle school curricula and cover a broad range of horticultural/environmental education topics. Popular topic areas include student-led gardening projects, literature connections, garden-based STEM learning experiences, family engagement, and creating successful, sustainable school gardens.

Contact: visit JMG Training Calendar at <http://JMGkids.us/Trainings>

Nature Discovery Center

Nature Discovery Center provides scientific investigations and experiential outdoor learning for elementary and preschool students through its field trips, day camps, and classes. Outreach programs such as Scales and Tails, Furry Friends, and Join the Insect Club travel to schools, libraries, and other locations, with live animals. Located in a 4-acre park, the Center offers a variety of science and nature programs for children and adults. All can be found on the website: www.naturediscoverycenter.org.

Contact: DeAndra Ramsey - Executive Director, dramsey@naturediscoverycenter.org, 713-667-6550

The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project

The NEED Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education association providing educational materials, evaluation tools, recognition of student leadership, and professional development for educators. NEED's curriculum materials and training programs provide comprehensive, objective information about energy, sources of energy, their use, and their impact on the environment, the economy, and society.

During workshops, participants learn hands-on about the forms of energy and energy transformations, renewable and nonrenewable energy sources, and energy efficiency and energy conservation. Our TEKS-aligned K-12 curriculum is free to download. Individual guides include background information for teachers and text for students, hands-on experiments and engineering design projects, critical thinking activities and assessments, as well as language arts, social studies, and creative arts activities. Examples of NEED projects include modelling electricity generation, pulling "oil" from a well, designing wind turbine blades, building a solar oven, exploring careers in the energy industry, and auditing your school's energy use.

Contact: Wendi Moss, 1-800-875-5029, info@need.org, www.need.org

NOAA's Ocean Guardian School Program

An Ocean Guardian School makes a commitment to the protection and conservation of its local watersheds, the world's ocean, and special ocean areas, like national marine sanctuaries. The school makes this commitment by proposing and then implementing a school- or community- based conservation project. Example projects include schoolyard habitat/garden, watershed restoration (e.g., re-vegetation of wetlands), marine debris (e.g., reducing single-use plastics on school campus), and recycling efforts.

Contact: 409-356-0386 https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/

Northwest ISD Outdoor Learning Center

Northwest ISD Outdoor Learning Center (NISD OLC) provides NISD students experiential and nature-based learning to promote curiosity, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. Our inclusive curriculum design is TEK aligned for interdisciplinary experiences for PreK – 12th grades, as well targeted social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies. Field experiences are 4 to 6 hours on our 200-acre site featuring three large pavilions, walking trails, prairie, ponds, seasonal wetlands, and creek access, and indoor classrooms. We are a BEETLES Leadership Institute participant, model BEETLES instructional practices on site, and lead BEETLES learning routines on any of our 31 campuses within NISD. Curious to know more?

Contact: Amy Hollenshead, NISD Outdoor Learning Center Coordinator, at 817.698.1820 or ahollenshead@nisdtx.org, <https://www.nisdtx.org/departments/academics/core-curriculum/outdoor-learning>

Updated 2023

Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve

We offer a wide range of field trip options for schools as well as teacher training opportunities. Our mission is to enhance community understanding for the need to preserve the natural resources of coastal ecosystems for future generations through access and education. Specifically, we focus on the south Texas coastal environment.

Contact: Contact: Marissa Zaino 361-826-3947; MarissaZ@cctexas.com;
<http://www.cctexas.com/services/general-government/oso-bay-wetlands-preserve-learning-center>

The Outdoor Education Center at Camp Olympia

Camp Olympia is situated on 101 acres in the piney woods of East Texas on Lake Livingston. This picturesque location is an ideal environment for experiencing nature first-hand. We offer day and overnight trips, and our curriculum is aligned with the TEKS, and our state certified educators and staff use best practices based on the UC Berkley's BEETLES Leadership science institute.

Contact: Brian McDaniel at 936.594.7074 or bmcdaniel@campolympia.com,
<https://www.campolympiaretreats.com/outdoor-education-center/>

Perot Museum of Nature and Science

The Perot Museum offers innovative learning experiences, including workshops and the Kosmos Energy STEM Teacher Institute, that focus on equipping K-12 teachers with tools and skills to ignite student enthusiasm for STEM. Our workshops include highly interactive, TEKS-aligned activities that inspire educators to take their classrooms to new heights in learning. teacherworkshops@perotmuseum.org

Contact: Karin.Foronda@perotmuseum.org or patricia.ratanapraphart@perotmuseum.org

Phil Hardberger Park

Phil Hardberger Park offers a variety of family and student-friendly programs on most Saturdays of the month ranging from guided hikes, presentations, and take-away lessons. Environmental and nature-based education classes are offered during the week such as Starting Out Wild, Growing Up WILD, Explorer Elementary and Middle School classes. School field trip and campus visit opportunities are available by request. Starting Out Wild and Growing Up WILD workshops are available annually for educators. A weekday Children's Vegetable Garden is offered for homeschooled children in spring and fall.

Contact: David Jimenez david.jimenez@sanantonio.gov, www.philhardbergerpark.org

Pines and Prairies Land Trust

Pines and Prairies Land Trust (PPLT) is a nonprofit land trust working throughout Central Texas to protect open space through land conservation, stewardship, and community engagement. PPLT owns three nature preserves in Bastrop County that are open for visitors and programs. Nature classes, birding hikes and volunteer projects are offered at the Colorado River Refuge located just outside the town of Bastrop. Class topics include river ecology, wildflowers, observation skills, water quality and more!

Contact: Laurie Mason, Laurie@pplt.org

Plano Environmental Education Center and Nature Explore Classroom

The Environmental Education Center educates and involves children, adults, families, community leaders, and educators in environmental activities and demonstrates sustainability concepts and practices. The certified Nature Explore® Classroom reconnects young children with nature through activities engaging skills in science, math, music, movement, language, literacy, and art. The gardens engage children and adults in exploring and interacting with the natural world as part of their daily lives, helping to develop a lifelong sense of wonder.

Contact: SEED@plano.gov, 972-769-4130, www.livegreeninplano.com,
<https://www.plano.gov/592/Nature-Explore-Classroom-Trail-Garden>

Project E³- Expanding Energy Education Workshops

Project E³ workshops provide cross-curricular, hands-on GT activities related to earth science/energy focusing on STEM activities which are correlated to state and national standards. Professional development is offered in Galveston at the Ocean Star Museum, in Houston, and arranged in partnership with area school districts.

Contact: Doris Tomas at 832-587-1753; dtomas@energyeducation.org; www.energyeducation.org

Project Learning Tree, a program of the Texas Forestry Association

Project Learning Tree, a program of the Texas Forestry Association Description: Project Learning Tree is an award-winning supplemental environmental education curriculum designed for teachers who work with youth from preschool through grade 12. PLT activities can be integrated into lesson plans for all grade levels and subject areas, especially STEM, reading, writing, and social studies. PLT's TEKS-aligned activities are hands-on, practical, and fun for both teachers and students. PLT certification is available through in-person or online professional development workshops.

Contact: Ted Stevens, 936-632-8733, plttexas@texasforestry.org Website: <http://www.plttexas.org/>

Project WILD, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) sponsors a suite of Project WILD programs, Project WILD (K-12), Aquatic WILD (K-12) and Growing Up WILD (ages 3-7). Each offers a special iteration of this hands-on approach to learning. The Texas Project WILD Suite is a Pre- Kindergarten through 12th grade environmental and conservation education program emphasizing awareness, appreciation and understanding of wildlife and natural resources. It is interdisciplinary and supplementary and can be used to teach basic skills in science, social studies, language arts, math, art, music, and physical education. TPWD offers Project WILD through hands-on workshops for educators.

Contact: Kiki Corry, 512-389-4369, ProjectWILD@TPWD.Texas.gov,
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/project_wild/

Region 10's Learning on Location Program

Region 10's Learning on Location (LOL) program provides K-12 educators an experiential environment that supports learning and content development. Sessions such as Outdoor Inquiry, Innovative Expeditions, Academics Outdoors, and Kids Can Come, Too have gotten rave reviews from teachers as being relevant, engaging, and extremely beneficial for teachers and their students.

We offer these sessions on site as all-day guided learning in some cases or as a mixture of half-day on-site with the other half of the day on-line. The on-line portion may include answering reflection questions and developing and submitting a lesson plan based on what teachers learned from the session, or it may include an on-line platform such as Goosechase or Padlet to bring the on-site learning to a tangible, useful resource(s).

Contact: Holly Bishop at Holly.Bishop@Region10.org, or <https://www.region10.org/programs/learning-on-location/overview/>

San Antonio Botanical Gardens

The San Antonio Botanical Gardens is a 38-acre garden in the city that has native trails, conservatory, family adventure garden, children's vegetable garden and culinary garden. Garden educational programs are available for both children and adults to enrich lives through connections with the natural world. Teacher professional development workshops including Project Learning Tree are offered throughout the year. Visit our website to see current program offerings.

Contact: Jessica Wolanski, 210-536-1434, jwolanski@sabot.org; [Student Learning San Antonio | TEKS Based Programs | Educators & Schools | \(sabot.org\)](#)

San Antonio River Authority

The San Antonio River Authority provides educational and recreational opportunities to increase awareness of and appreciation for the San Antonio River Watershed. The River Authority aims to engage, educate, and empower students and teachers to make informed decisions about the conservation and protection of the San Antonio River watershed through thought-provoking, hands-on, and inquiry-driven explorations. Teachers in Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad Counties can request a free presentation or field trip regarding watersheds and river ecology. Professional development for teachers is also offered.

Contact: The Education and Engagement Officer, 210-302-3282, www.sariverauthority.org

San Antonio Zoo

San Antonio Zoo is the perfect experience for students of all ages. Whether exploring the zoo on your own or enhancing your field trip with a Zoo Connection Class or Wild Walk program, your students are sure to stay engaged during this experience of a lifetime. Zoo visits complement your curriculum and TEKS initiatives with hands-on learning in a nature-based environment, full of adaptations, habitats, and food webs, as well as opportunities for observation, storytelling, new vocabulary, geography, and career exploration.

Contact: School Visits Coordinator, Michael Gates michael.gates@sazoo.org,
<https://sazoo.org/education-programs/field-trips/>

Take Care of Texas — Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Take Care of Texas offers free educational publications for families, students, and teachers on the topics of air, water, and waste. The Take Care of Texas YouTube page has several educational videos, including virtual field trips. The website offers free publications, both physical and digital, that range from posters and lesson plans to stickers and bookmarks.

Contact: educate@tceq.texas.gov, TakeCareOfTexas.org

Texas Aquatic Science, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Program

Texas Aquatic Science is a comprehensive aquatic science curriculum, from molecules to ecosystems, and headwaters to ocean, for middle school and high school students. The curriculum consists of an online student portal, student textbook, online teacher guide, specially produced videos, and supplementary materials. All activities are TEKS aligned for 6th-8th grade, and high school Aquatic Science, Biology, and Environmental System courses. Over 90 Texas Aquatic Science Certified Field Sites around the state provide field experiences for visiting groups.

Contact: ConservationEdu@tpwd.texas.gov, 512-389-8060,
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education>

Texas Association for Environmental Education (TAEЕ)

The Texas Association for Environmental Education is a professional organization that supports and promotes a community of Texas' environmental educators by providing content, connections, certification, and communication. TAEЕ offers certification for environmental educators. TAEЕ is dedicated to supporting and promoting quality environmental education opportunities by facilitating communications, coordination, and professional development among the varied EE programs in the state. TAEЕ organizes an annual conference for environmental educators.

Contact: info@taee.org, www.taee.org

Texas Brigades

Texas Brigades offers multiple summer leadership development camps for youth, ages 13-17. With over 30 years of experience, our Summer Camps Program develops life skills for a future in any field, while featuring various topics of wildlife and natural resources. With one application, choose from our Bobwhite, Buckskin, Bass, Waterfowl, Ranch, and Coastal Brigade programs. Each five-day camp introduces science-based concepts (i.e., ecology, biology, and technology), conservation fundamentals, as well as public speaking and teamwork challenges. The state's leading wildlife and fisheries biologists, producers, and land managers volunteer and serve as instructors throughout camp. Come join us outdoors! Apply online, Nov 1-March 15, at: www.texasbrigades.org

Contact: info@texasbrigades.org, 210-556-1391, also on Facebook and Instagram

Teacher Conservation Institute (TCI), a program of the Texas Forestry Association

TCI is a multi-day professional development camp that focuses on the environmental, social, and economic well-being that results from the scientific management and stewardship of Texas' forest resources. Educators are provided with TEKS-correlated curriculum that will empower them to effectively teach about the forest life cycle and forest ecosystems in the classroom. Field trips include the Texas Forestry Museum, a seedling nursery, family-owned tree farm, and forest product manufacturing facilities. Participants receive Project Learning Tree educator certification and up to 40 CPE hours.

Contact: Ted Stevens, plttexas@texasforestry.org, www.plttexas.org,
www.facebook.com/TexasProjectLearningTree

Texas Discovery Gardens

Texas' first certified public organic garden has education opportunities for all ages, with 7½ acres of gardens and a two-story tropical butterfly conservatory. With our TEKS-based EarthKeepers curriculum for PreK through 8th grade, Girl and Boy Scout program opportunities, and spontaneous family-oriented programming during open hours, our students will discover and learn to sustain the natural world.

Contact: Scout Woodward, swoodward@txdg.org; 214-428-7476 ext. 270
<https://txdg.org/field-trips/>

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Program

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) encourages exploration of aquatic ecosystems of Texas. Field trips for student groups and teacher workshops are available. TFFC includes a visitor center with aquaria and museum, wetlands trail, fishing ponds, and working freshwater fish hatchery.

Contact: Kate Barkalow, 903-676-2266, Katelyn.barkalow@tpwd.texas.gov

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) Archives

The Texas GLO Archives is the repository of the original land grants of Texas dating back to the Spanish era and includes personal correspondence from Texas settlers and soldiers from the Texas Revolution through the Civil War. The collection is rich in historical, TEKS-connected, primary source material, encompassing over 35 million documents and 45 thousand historical maps, many of which are digitized and accessible online. Additionally, GLO staff have created ArcGIS StoryMaps, GIS maps on history-related topics, lesson plans, and other educational materials for classroom use, and offer online and in-person workshops on ways to utilize these resources in the classroom. The GLO also conducts tours of the Archives, sponsors an annual essay-writing contest for 4th and 7th graders, and hosts an annual symposium showcasing the latest research in Texas history.

Contact: Lila Rakoczy, archives@glo.texas.gov

Texas Science & Natural History Museum (formerly known as the Texas Memorial Museum)

Texas Science & Natural History Museum engages, excites, and connects curious minds of all ages to the unique and irreplaceable natural history of the State of Texas. The grand reopening is Saturday, September 23, 2023, after which the Museum's hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm. New and updated exhibits tell the story of life in the natural world in Texas — from the formation of our planet, through the age of the dinosaurs, and into our current environment — and will showcase advanced research being done at The University of Texas at Austin that will make a positive impact on life in the future. Expect new TEKS-aligned educational programs, teacher professional development, and events as the Museum continues to evolve!

Contact: Pamela R. Owen, 512-232-5511, p.owen@austin.utexas.edu; <https://tmm.utexas.edu/>

Texas Mining and Reclamation Association

TMRA offers **free** (hotel accommodations and meals included) weeklong summer workshops for educators. These workshops provide experiences to stimulate students' thinking skills with hands-on, TEKS correlated activities. Educators will learn about energy sources and the environmental issues surrounding their usage and about many diverse career opportunities for students. Tours of operating mines, areas of restored land, and other industry facilities including power plants are part of the 5-day workshops. There are workshops for coal, uranium, and industrial minerals which focus on how resources are mined and used today.

Contact: Charitie Whitman, Director of Education | 903.707.4320 | education@tmra.com | <http://www.tmra.com>

Texas Nature Trackers, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Program

Texas Nature Trackers (TNT), part of the Wildlife Diversity Program, tracks the status of wild populations of plants and animals throughout Texas with the help of citizen scientists using the iNaturalist and SEEK apps. Teacher workshops and events which highlight skills and tools are available.

Contact: TNT Biologists Craig Hensley at craig.hensley@tpwd.texas.gov or Wendy Anderson at wendy.anderson@tpwd.texas.gov.

The Texas Space Grant Consortium

The Texas Space Grant Consortium (TSGC) is a group of 59 institutions that are joined to ensure that the benefits of space research and STEM education at all levels are available to all Texans. TSGC provides opportunities for Higher Education and K-12 Education educators and students, within a formal and informal environment. The main objective of TSGC's Higher Education Programs is to enhance understanding and appreciation of the benefits of space exploration and space-based research. The main objective of the K-12 Education Programs is to enhance students and teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and/or provide understanding of the benefits of space exploration and space-based research. The 3 flagship programs are the biannual Design Challenge, NASA STEM Enhancement for Earth Science (SEES) and LiftOff, PD at NASA for teachers.

Contact: Margaret Baguio, Program Manager for Education and Outreach, baguio@tsgc.utexas.edu, 512-471-6922: <http://www.tsgc.utexas.edu/>

Texas State Aquarium

Texas State Aquarium brings together best practices and innovation from the fields of education, research, and industry to advance STEM education and learning, in and out of the classroom, in south Texas and beyond. Flint Hills Resources has also been our longtime presenting partner for our Aquavision Distance Learning program. As a cornerstone of our mission, education brings discovery and experiential learning to each student. Our aquarium is the perfect platform for conservation education and ecosystem understanding for students of all ages. Our educational experiences – from field trips to summer camp to distance learning- are designed to promote inclusive and collaborative learning, foster STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) exploration and discovery and empower learners of all ages to reach their full potential. Offered programming: overnight visits, Aquavision distance learning, aquarium plus field trips, self-guided visits, teacher professional development, summer and school year camps, outreach homeschool.

Contact: Nicole Gaertner, 361-881-1201 or ngaertner@txstateaq.org; <https://www.texasstateaquarium.org/educate/>

Texas Stream Team

The Texas Stream Team trains citizen scientists, including teachers and students, to collect water quality data on Texas waterways. Teachers earn up to 5 hours of continuing education credits by completing any Texas Stream Team training. Educators find the Texas Stream Team and our vast TEKS-aligned curricula and teaching resources to be valuable tools that lend themselves to cross-disciplinary and informal instruction. By teaching students how to measure what is happening in the environment around them, the Texas Stream Team helps teachers effectively present the abstract concepts of biology, chemistry, and ecology, while fostering stewardship for Texas waterways. Texas Stream Team also leads water resource education and outreach activities for schools, families, organizations, and other groups.

Contact: Aspen Navarro, 512-245-1346, TxStreamTeam@txstate.edu www.TexasStreamTeam.org

Texas Tech University Outdoor Learning Center

Texas Tech University Outdoor Learning Center is located on 411 acres just outside Junction, Texas. The South Llano River, mesquite thickets, pecan bottoms, open grassland, riparian areas, and a big dark sky provide the perfect classroom for K-12 students and teachers. All curricula are STEM-based, TEKS-aligned, and full of inquiry-based field experiences. Workshops allow teachers and other environment-related partners to gain knowledge, cultivate place-based curriculum, and incorporate a variety of hands-on activities for use in the classroom. A 5th grade teacher shared this about her students' Texas Tech Junction Outdoor School experience; "Yes, the children saw, experienced, touched, and learned more than a week in my classroom could provide. More importantly, we saw learning and teaching going on the way we know it should. The students explored, caught, measured, encouraged, questioned, hypothesized, corrected, ran, walked, whispered, dreamed, and laughed all day long."

Contact: Brett Mosley (806) 834- 8027, outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu,

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/junction/outdoorschool>

Texas Water Development Board - TWDB Kids

The Texas Water Development Board offers free professional development workshops focused on water science and conservation. Teachers will leave the course confident in their knowledge of water science and equipped with numerous Texas-specific activities and resources that can improve classroom instruction while engaging both hands and minds. The "TWDB Kids" website includes flexible TEKS-aligned lessons from Major Rivers (grades 4 & 5), Raising Your Water IQ (6- 8), and Water Exploration (9- 12), plus groundwater videos, maps of our water resources, and much more.

Contact: Shae Luther, 512-463-8830, consedu@twdb.texas.gov,

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/education/kids/index.asp>

Texas Wildlife Association (TWA)

Texas Wildlife Association believes today's children are tomorrow's decision-makers, so they have made it their mission to create awareness of conservation, water, wildlife, agriculture, and the importance of quality land stewardship. This is done by implementing various programs in the classroom and out in the field that enable educators to meet their goals while fostering a consciousness of the natural world. TWA's programs are all Science TEKS-aligned and range from grades K-12. TWA also offers professional development workshops held across the state.

Contact: Kassi Scheffer-Geeslin, 210-826-2904, kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org, www.texas-wildlife.org

The Texas Zoo - Victoria, TX

The Texas Zoo- Victoria, TX The Texas Zoo connects people with wildlife from Texas and the rest of the world, and advances conservation through education, recreation, science, and action. Throughout the year we offer K-12 educational programs including field trips, home school programs, outreaches, and summer camps.

Contact: 361-573-7681, education@texaszoo.org, www.texaszoo.org

Tree Trails, a Texas A&M Forest Service Conservation Education Program

Texas A&M Forest Service Conservation Education offers a variety of free educational resources for PK-12 that bring forests and trees back into the classroom and into the hearts of all Texans. From curricula and STEM applications to career connections and professional development, Texas A&M Forest Service has something for every grade level and educator to explore the vital role trees and forests play in creating healthier, more sustainable communities. Tree Trails, a standards-aligned STEM curriculum for elementary and secondary classrooms, empowers students to investigate the true value of trees as well as how to keep them safe from emerging threats like wildfire and loss of biodiversity. Using the Tree Trails app, students can calculate the real dollar value of their trees while mastering essential skills like tree identification, measurement, and geospatial mapping. This program can be easily incorporated into any classroom, and both professional development and in-classroom presentations are available statewide. Together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable future for Texas' forests and related natural resources. Visit Tree Trails today to get started – tfsweb.tamu.edu/TreeTrails.

Contact education@tfs.tamu.edu or call our main line at 979-458-6650.

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Turtle Island Restoration Network Turtle Island Restoration Network leads hands-on educational activities focusing on the Gulf of Mexico, the watershed that sustains it, and the impact of human activity on our ocean. Programs focus on decomposition of litter in the marine environment, point source and non-point source pollution, and the effect of plastics in the environment. With schools in the Galveston area, we have in-classroom and field trip options. Our fieldwork program involves sampling of water and sand to extract microplastics. A smaller in-classroom portion of this program is available for schools in the greater Houston/Galveston area.

Contact: Joanie Steinhaus, 409-795-8426, joanie@tirn.net, <http://www.seaturtles.org>

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District Educational Programs

The Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District provides free programs and resources to STEM educators and community leaders throughout North Texas, having completed presentations in Parker, Hood, Wise, Montague, Tarrant, and Wichita counties. The UTGC District offers the following opportunities: certified environmental staff visit for buildable activities and lectures, reservations for the District Education Trailer - housing five interactive and TEKS aligned earth/environmental science exhibits (appropriate ages PreK-12th), educational service center trainings, and field site visits.

Contact: Education & PR Coordinator, jill@uppertrinitygcd.com, or 817-523-5200; <https://uppertrinitygcd.com/>

Urban Harvest's Edible Academy

The Edible Academy workshop provides educators, youth garden coordinators and parents with hands-on lessons, techniques, and curriculum for using their school gardens and Outdoor Classrooms as exciting educational tools. Summer Edible Academy is a 3-day workshop while the Fall and Spring Edible Academies are 3-hour workshops focusing on seasonal plantings and leadership and service activities. Participants will explore lessons in gardening and culinary arts that support TEKS objectives in the core subjects making learning memorable and tasty too!

Contact: Kim Perry, Director of Garden Education, kim@urbanharvest.org, 713-880-5540, www.urbanharvest.org

The University of Texas Marine Science Institute and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve

The University of Texas Marine Science Institute and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve offer a wide variety of STEM learning experiences for 3rd-12th grade students and teachers. Our TEKS-aligned programs immerse learners in inquiry and place-based activities that inspire curiosity, connect to research, promote stewardship, and refine STEM process skills. Program offerings include R/V Katy excursions, field investigations, classes/labs, presentations, professional development, self-guided tours, and outreach to schools.

Contact: Adriana Reza, Education Coordinator, adriana.reza@austin.utexas.edu,
<https://utmsi.utexas.edu/>

Welder Wildlife Foundation

The Welder Wildlife Foundation is a 7,800-acre wildlife research and education refuge location in south Texas. We provide nature-based programming for K-12 students, universities, teachers, landowners, and a variety of adult groups. Rangelands, A Conservation Education Guide is a TEKS aligned curriculum composed of 27 lessons for grades K-5. The science-based curriculum is distributed through our “Home on the Range” educator workshops. The goal of our programs is to provide participants with positive hands-on learning experiences outdoors to increase environmental awareness and stewardship.

Contact: Angie Arredondo or 361-364- 2643, aarredondo@welderwildlife.org

Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center

Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center offers programs at Westcave Preserve in Southwest Travis County. Weekday school programs provide guided hikes into the Preserves’ canyon, grotto, and cave areas. Programs focus on geology, conservation, habitat, water, and the history of Westcave. “Best field trip ever” is a common phrase said by visiting students. Typical timing is 9:45am arrival, 10am program, 12:30pm Picnic Lunch (on your own) then departure around 1:15pm. Alternative timing is available. Public tours are available every weekend, weather permitting. Professional development opportunities occur during the year by hosting various workshops.

Contact: 830-825-3442 or email meagan@westcave.org, www.westcave.org

The Witte Museum

The Witte Museum is where nature, science and culture meet! Located on the banks of the San Antonio River in Brackenridge Park, the Witte has provided rich content for visitors of all ages since 1926. The Witte Museum's transformative school programs are TEKS-aligned for grades K-12. Self-guided tours are also available. Witte's environmental science programs cover everything from dinosaurs to adaptations to stewardship. Scholarships for programs and admission fees and bus reimbursement are available. The Witte also offers Live Distance Learning and Outreach.

Contact: 210-357-1910 or [Education - The Witte Museum](#)

If you would like to see your program represented on this list, please complete the [Program Description Form](#) and email it to Liz.Baker@tea.texas.gov along with a description like those above. This will also get your name on the TEEAC newsletter mailing list, and you will receive an invitation to the TEEAC Annual Meeting, held on the first Monday of January.