

Easy 3-step process to booking YOUR program at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park:

- 1 Pick some topics.**
Choose from the eight exciting programs that best fit your classroom needs. If you don't see a topic you are interested in, let us know – we can do special requests.
- 2 Pick a date.**
Choose the day and time you would like to visit. Have a few back-up dates as well.
- 3 Call us at (956) 584-9156.**
Dates fill up quickly, so call early to book your program.

Once you have successfully booked your program you will receive confirmation.



What about lunch?

School groups are welcome to bring their own lunches and enjoy them at the pavilion located near our beautiful resaca.

Pricing

Call the park for pricing details. Special group rates are given but are based on group size and on the amount of time your visit will be. Programs usually range from one to two hours.

Because we recognize the support provided by teachers and chaperones, all adults assisting with a school group will NOT be charged an additional entry fee (fees for snacks and materials will be the responsibility of the individual adult or the school).

Special programs are offered year-round with a reservation.



Don't forget the gift shop!

A trip to the park's gift shop can be added to any field trip FREE of charge.

Books, games, binoculars, T-shirts, hats, stuffed animals, snacks and souvenirs of all kinds can be found in our gift shop. Don't forget to have your

students bring their spending money! All purchases in the gift shop support Texas state parks.

Can't leave the classroom? Let us come to you!

We also offer OUTREACH programs that will come to you. Let one of our knowledgeable staff bring the wonderful world of wildlife to your classroom.

Call for program options and prices:
(956) 584-9156

BENTSEN-RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE PARK, WORLD BIRDING CENTER

2800 S. Bentsen Palm Drive (FM 2062)
Mission, Texas 78572

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Bird Walk 101



One of the top birding destinations in the country, birders across the nation know that Bentsen has a treasure trove of "Valley specialties," tropical birds found nowhere else in the United States. Students will learn how to use binoculars, scopes, field guides, and a checklist all while seeing some amazing native birds. After the guided bird walk, your young birders will be able to use these new skills in their own school yards, backyards, and other area parks. Life is better outside!

Aquatic Investigations



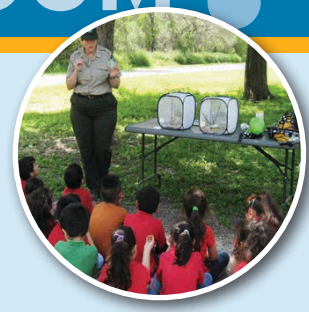
This introduction to the mysterious underwater inhabitants of Bentsen's La Parida Banco Resaca and other bodies of freshwater will be sure to fascinate your students. Join us as we closely investigate creatures that lie beneath the surface of our waters. Students will learn how we use species diversity to determine the health of our water through collection and research. Students will also understand how pollutants and runoff affects wildlife and possibly the very water we drink, if we are not good stewards of our natural resources.

Nature Walk



As one of the larger tracts of the Rio Grande floodplain forest remaining in this area, Bentsen is a great place to discover nature in South Texas. This guided nature walk offers students a chance to see wildlife in their natural habitats. Students will also learn trail etiquette, habitat types, and get a chance to hike down a trail in search of local native plants and animals. Students are encouraged to use their sense of smell, hearing, and of course, sight during this program.

Life Cycles



From tiny eggs to new life forms, this program cycles through the four stages of metamorphosis. Younger students will get to imagine being what it is like to start out as a frog or a butterfly egg all the way to adulthood. Live examples of tadpoles, toads, caterpillars, and butterflies are usually showcased during this program. For older students, we discuss the life cycles of dragonflies and explore how they are sometimes considered fierce predators and other times prey for the same species of animal.

Animal Adaptations



Wildlife of all types have different adaptations. Students will join us as we explore amazing animal adaptations that wildlife of the Rio Grande Valley exhibit. Students will be able to see and touch real animal furs, skulls, and other related materials through this hands-on show and tell. We will also discuss how and why certain adaptations have evolved and reinforce common terminology that is STARR correlated. This show and tell is sure to be entertaining and educational!

What Does Water Do?



The water cycle, erosion, runoff, and the distribution of water on the planet are discussed and explored during this program. Students will see firsthand the effects of erosion on a walk down Green Jay Trail. Students will also gain a greater understanding and respect for how precious water is as we discuss water distribution throughout the world. We will also learn how water is continually being recycled, and what actions we can take to insure that the planet continues to provide fresh, clean water for wildlife and for human use.

Migration Exploration



Take a journey with us and have your students imagine what it is like to migrate like a bird. During this program students will gain an understanding of when and why birds migrate, the use of thermals and weather fronts during migration, and the importance of adequate habitats for birds on the move and in their breeding or wintering territories. This program is usually activity-based but during certain times of the year we may be able to visit the Hawk Tower and witness migration firsthand.

Exhibit Hall, Garden and Gift Store Visit



Another favorite for students is having a chance to visit the gift shop for that special souvenir. Groups of students will be rotated through the store, exhibit hall, and also get to explore our gardens located at the headquarters. The exhibit hall is comprised of interactive displays explaining the history, habitats, and wildlife of the area. The garden walk will discuss how the land has been transformed into the lush habitat you see today that was once farmland.