

# TPWD OUTDOOR LEARNING & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## EXPERIENCE

### Angler Education Program

Come to a fishing event OR become a certified volunteer fishing instructor! Our free instructor training provides a fun, hands-on curriculum to teach the basics of fishing to youth and adults in your community. TEA-approved CPE available for teachers. Learn to Fish videos are also available online.

### Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program

Experience the outdoors at weekend workshops for women. Learn the basics in archery, birdwatching, boating, camping, canoeing, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, nature hikes and much more. Room, lodging and class instruction are included in workshop fees. No experience is needed and all equipment is provided. Fees vary.

### Boater Education Program

Learn about boating terminology, required equipment, legal requirements, and safe operation of a boat. Certification is available through instructor led classes or on the web. All boaters born on or after September 1, 1993 must take a TPWD approved course to operate certain vessels on public waters. Share your knowledge and skills and become certified as a volunteer boater education instructor.

### Buffalo Soldiers

This program brings history to life by sharing stories of the nation's first black professional soldiers that fought on the western frontier and became some of the nation's first Park Rangers. Hands-on outreach activities feature animal tracking, cane pole fishing, trap ball and storytelling designed for schools and public events for all ages.

### National Archery in the Schools Program

Introduce students to archery, a safe, indoor and outdoor accessible lifelong sport for all ages and abilities. During a two-week physical education course, 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students shoot at standard targets in their school's gymnasium using state-of-the-art equipment designed to fit all students. To become an instructor, teachers must participate in an eight-hour, national accredited "Basic Archery Instructor" training workshop.

### Hunter Education Program

Hunter Education is required for those born on or after Sept. 2, 1971. The purpose is to promote safe, responsible hunting and shooting practices. Those under 17 can take classroom or internet + field courses that include skill and live-fire exercises. Those 17 and older may choose an online-only course option. Become a certified instructor and teach hunting and firearm safety, regulations, ethics and responsibilities.

### Texas Outdoor Family

Take your family out for a fun-filled weekend of experiencing and learning basic outdoor skills. No experience or equipment necessary. Learn the basics of camping, fire starting, outdoor cooking, kayaking, geocaching and many other activities for enjoying the outdoors.

### Get Outside

Youth can shoot an arrow, learn to cast and even pitch a tent as part of our Outdoor Kid's Challenge. Come out with the family and join TPWD staff when we attend our next Festival. Watch for upcoming events throughout the State on our TPWD calendar page.

### Texas State Park Ambassadors

The program connects conservation-minded young adults, ages 18-30, with volunteer opportunities to foster a new generation of state park stewards. Over a 6-month period, Ambassador Volunteers complete outreach, social media and service projects to promote State Parks. Regional applications periods open three times per year.

## EXPLORE

### Sea Center Texas

Sea Center Texas is a marine aquarium, fish hatchery and nature center located in Lake Jackson. Aquariums depict native Texas habitats such as a salt marsh, jetty, reef and open Gulf. The center offers a variety of educational programs that promote Texas' marine resources.

### State Parks & Historic Sites

Over 90 Texas state parks and historic sites offer family fun and learning opportunities based on each unique location, including Junior Ranger Explorer Packs, Texas Geocache Challenge, cultural and historical tours, and Ranger-led Programs. Get an annual pass and enjoy a year of free admission.

### Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

Get eye to eye with huge alligator gar! Walk in the wetlands, ask our diver questions about native fish and learn about freshwater ecosystems in Texas. Tour our hatchery and cast a line in well-stocked ponds. Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens promotes sport fishing and stewardship of aquatic resources in Texas.

### Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

Across the state, the 49 WMA's perform research on wildlife populations and habitat, and conduct education. These 769,000 acres of land are also used for public hunting, hiking, camping, bird watching and other outdoor recreational opportunities.



Life's better outside.®

For more information on these and other opportunities,  
visit our web site: [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov)  
Events calendar: [www.tpwd.texas.gov/calendar](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/calendar)  
Call toll –free (800) 792-1112 or email: [education@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:education@tpwd.texas.gov)  
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## DISCOVER

### TPWDiscover Distance Learning

Free live and pre-recorded digital interpretive programs via video conferencing services through Connect2Texas. The interactive programs are TEKS aligned for grades Pre-K to 12 and cover topics such as plants, animals, conservation and careers.

### Education Loaner Trunks

Youth group leaders, formal and informal educators may borrow education trunks free of charge where available. Each trunk contains activities and materials appropriate for multiple age groups.

- Coastal Expo Trunk
- Dip Into Texas Waters Trunk
- Texas Wetlands Discovery Trunk
- Wild in the City Trunk / Safari Trunk

### Texas Project WILD Suite

Project WILD, Aquatic WILD and Growing Up WILD provide activities to teach about wildlife and conservation. Activities are adaptable for all levels and integrated with core subject curricula. Workshops include a comprehensive, teacher-tested activity guide. TEEAC and TEA-approved CPE available for teachers.

### Texas Water Education

*Texas Aquatic Science* features hands-on activities in an online textbook, teacher guide and videos for students in grades 6-12. *Texas Waters* inspires adults to learn about aquatic habitats and resource management and earn a Texas Waters Specialist designation. Specialists can volunteer in their community to educate others about our most precious natural resource, water.

### Texas Children in Nature

Studies show that spending more time playing and learning outdoors makes us healthier, happier and smarter! Texas Children in Nature is a network of organizations and individuals that focus on connecting children and families with nature. You can keep up with the research; find activities, events and natural spaces at [www.naturerockstexas.org](http://www.naturerockstexas.org) or [www.texaschildreninnature.org](http://www.texaschildreninnature.org)

### Texas Master Naturalist Program

TMN trains adult volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas. Many communities and organizations rely on such volunteers for implementing technical guidance, outreach, operating parks, nature centers, natural areas; and to provide leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. Sponsored by TPWD and Texas AgriLife Extension.

### Texas Nature Trackers

This citizen-scientist monitoring effort involves volunteers of all ages and interest levels in gathering scientific data on species of concern in Texas. Through Texas Nature Tracker projects, you can learn how to gather data about various species found on public lands or on your own property. Collected data is sent to biologists who use the information to gain a better understanding of the status and management of these species to enable long-term conservation.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In addition to our education web pages, TPWD offers many programs and resources including:

- Teacher resources
- Keep Texas WILD—kids magazine section (archives)
- State Fish Art Contest
- Educational Display Permits
- Junior Ranger Program
- Texas Wildscapes (habitat certification)

### CO-OP and Recreation Grants

TPWD offers competitive grants to local governments, schools and nonprofit organizations for programming that engages under-represented populations in TPWD mission-oriented outdoor recreation, conservation and environmental education activities. Eligible expenses include personnel, training, liability insurance, food, transportation, program supplies and entrance fees.

### Urban Wildlife Biologists

Urban wildlife biologists provide wildlife and habitat conservation information to urban residents, civic groups, NGOs, businesses and local governments. Speakers and educational resources are sometimes available. Biologists are located in six major urban centers. To speak with an urban wildlife biologist in your area, contact:

- Austin: (512) 308-0979
- Dallas/Fort Worth: (972) 293-3841
- El Paso: (915) 774-9603
- Houston: (281) 456-7029
- Rio Grande Valley: (956) 565-1223
- San Antonio: (210) 688-6444

### Volunteer Opportunities

Help protect wild things and places. Your state parks, wildlife, lands and waters depend on your help to stay healthy. Annually, volunteers donate more than a half-million hours of service worth more than \$17,000,000 to TPWD. Volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups are available. Serve your country through AmeriCorps and TPWD by joining one of our projects.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

LIKE US! Connect with all your favorite TPWD programs, parks, sites and events through social media [www.tpwd.texas.gov/socialmedia](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/socialmedia)



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