

OUTDOOR LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EXPERIENCE

Angler Education Program

Come to a fishing event OR become certified as a volunteer fishing instructor! The Angler Education program teaches the basics of fishing using hands-on and fun activities for youth and adults. Take Me Fishing—Learn to Fish videos are also available online. Our instructor training provides the curriculum and tools to equip you to teach the basics of fishing in your community. Instructor workshop qualifies for SBEC credit.

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, 4th-12th 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.

Becoming an Outdoor 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.

Buffalo Soldiers

This program brings history to life with stories, costumes and tools that share the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, the nation's first black professional soldiers that fought on the western frontier and became some of the nation's first Park Rangers. At one of our programs, you can learn how to track an animal, fish with a cane pole or cook over a campfire.

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.

Life's Better Outside Experience

Wouldn't it be fun to try out archery, or casting for fish or maybe even let the kids climb a rock wall? These introductory activities, in partnership with festivals around the state, will help get your family more involved in outdoor activities. Watch for upcoming events on the TPWD calendar page.

Hunter Education Program

Be a safe, knowledgeable hunter or hunter education instructor. This education program meets mandatory Hunter Education requirements for those born on or after Sept. 2, 1971. There are many course options available to suit your lifestyle and schedule. Certified Hunter Education instructors teach hunting and firearm safety rules and regulations, ethics and responsibilities. Field and live-firing exercises can be included as part of the courses. Those 17 and older may choose an online course option. Experienced hunters, do you want to give back? Share your knowledge and skills and become certified as a volunteer Hunter Education instructor.

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.

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 the wise use and conservation of 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. Visit texasstateparks.org to find a park near you.

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens combines visitation and outdoor education with a fish hatchery. The center provides educational, entertaining visitor experiences that promote freshwater sport fishing and the enhancement, conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources in Texas.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

Across the state, the 49 WMA's are used to 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 a host of other outdoor recreational opportunities.



Life's better outside.®

For more information on these and other opportunities,
visit our web site: www.tpwd.texas.gov
Events calendar: www.tpwd.texas.gov/calendar
Or call toll-free (800) 792-1112

DISCOVER

Coastal Expo

Can't get to the coast? Coastal Expo events bring the coast to you through fun, educational activities for the whole family. Learn about Texas coastal ecosystems, why they are important, and how to protect them. Formal and informal educators can also borrow the Coastal Discovery Trunks which are full of hands-on activities and study materials about Texas's valuable coastal ecosystems, plants and animals. Individual trunks listed in the Education Loaner Trunks section below.

Education Loaner Trunks

Formal and informal educators, and youth group leaders may borrow education trunks free of charge where available. For these and other education resources see our Teacher Tool Kit at www.tpwd.texas.gov/learning/resources

- Bird Trunk
- Coastal Expo Trunk
- Dip Into Texas Waters Trunk
- Home in the Gulf Trunk
- Life in the Gulf Trunk
- Rare Texas Wildlife Trunk
- Texas Bat Trunk
- Texas Wetlands Discovery Trunk
- Wild in the City Trunk

Texas Project WILD Suite

Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, Science & Civics, 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, and qualifies for TEEAC and SBEC credit.

Texas Aquatic Science

The Texas Aquatic Science guide is developed for middle and high school students for and about Texas; from molecules to ecosystems, and headwaters to ocean. Each of the 14 chapters contains video enhancements along with career information. The student online guide is available at <http://texasaquaticscience.org> A comprehensive teacher guide is available on the TPWD website (see Teacher Toolkit).

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 and events, and natural spaces at www.naturerockstexas.org or 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. Many communities and organizations rely on such volunteers for implementing youth education programs, operating parks, nature centers, natural areas; and to provide leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts. Sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 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 web pages, TPWD offers many programs and resources including:

- Online Teacher Toolkit
- Keep Texas WILD—kids magazine section (archives)
- State Fish Art Contest
- Educational Display Permits
- Junior Ranger Program
- Outdoor Activity of the Month
- Texas The State of Water
- Texas Wildscapes

CO-OP and Recreation Grants

TPWD offers competitive grants to local governments and non-profit, non-political organizations. Grant sponsors use funds to introduce under-served persons to the programs and facilities of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Sponsors may use funds to cover the costs of program equipment and materials, liability insurance, contract staff and to lease transportation.

Urban Wildlife Biologists

Urban wildlife biologists provide wildlife and habitat conservation information to urban residents, schools, businesses, and local governmental agencies. 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**

SOCIAL MEDIA

LIKE US! Connect with all of your favorite TPWD programs, parks, sites and events through social media www.tpwd.texas.gov/socialmedia



Life's better outside.®

Contact Us!

(800) 792-1112

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