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For over 100 years, Texas Game Wardens have exemplified dedication, passion and commitment to protecting the natural resources of Texas.
AGENCY MISSION:
To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION VISION:
As Texas Game Wardens, we proudly honor and respect our heritage while embracing the future. We continue to take progressive steps to improve our culture and practices to better serve and protect the natural resources and people of Texas.
Texas Game Wardens protect our valuable natural resources, enforce commercial and recreational fishing laws, hunting laws, water safety laws and environmental laws. Game Wardens are also fully commissioned State Peace Officers and First Responders who serve Texas by enforcing the Texas Penal Code and by providing search and rescue operations.

Texas Game Wardens are responsible for enforcement of the Parks and Wildlife Code, all TPWD regulations, the Texas Penal Code and selected statutes and regulations applicable to clean air and water, hazardous materials and human health. Game Wardens fulfill these responsibilities through educating the public about various laws and regulations, preventing violations by conducting high visibility patrols, and apprehending and arresting violators. The Law Enforcement Division employs approximately 551 Game Wardens throughout the state, and operates 28 field offices that sell licenses, register boats, and provide the public with local information across the state. Texas Game Wardens operate a fleet of over 550 patrol, tactical, and rescue vessels. Our marine enforcement program is accredited by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) which provides a true national standard for maritime interoperability. Furthermore, Texas Game Wardens engage with and educate the public through extensive outreach programs.

Texas Game Wardens utilize a team approach to implement specially trained Game Wardens into highly technical situations. These Game Wardens actively patrol their assigned counties but when special circumstances arise, they are called upon to put their expertise into action. Focusing on skill-specific training in key areas of expertise, the team approach has been validated time and time again.
CORE MISSIONS

Resource Protection
- Fisheries law enforcement
- Wildlife law enforcement
- Invasive species enforcement
- Commercial enforcement
- Fish and wildlife investigations
- Targeted education and outreach
- Threatened and endangered species protection

Public Safety
- Law enforcement services for residents and visitors of Texas
- Specialized Game Warden response units: air, land and water
- Natural disaster response
- Emergency management response
- Search and rescue
- Homeland and port security
- Interagency support and collaboration

Boating
- Water safety enforcement
- Boating while intoxicated enforcement
- Boat accident investigations
- Marine theft and title fraud investigation
- Water safety campaigns and education

Environmental Protection
- Environmental law enforcement
- Environmental investigations
- Water quality protection
- Natural resource protection

KEY STATEWIDE ISSUES

Hunting, Fishing and Natural Resource Law Enforcement
Water Safety Enforcement
Search and Rescue
Education, Outreach, and Recruiting

Number and Placement of Texas Game Wardens
Equipment and Training
Law Enforcement and Department Strategic Planning

SPECIALIZED GAME WARDEN TEAMS

Search and Rescue
Underwater Search & Recovery (Dive)
Scout Team (Tactical Response)
Statewide Forensics Reconstruction and Mapping Team

K-9 Operations
Marine Tactical Operational Group
Marine Theft
Peer Support
Honor Guard
Protect fish and wildlife species through effective enforcement and outreach.

1. Ensure the sustainability of Texas’ diverse ecosystems through effective law enforcement activities.
2. Enhance overt and covert investigative capabilities to better address resource protection needs and trends.
3. Ensure proactive and responsive enforcement, regulation and education, with an emphasis on invasive and exotic species.
4. Inform residents and visitors about conservation stewardship and encourage their active involvement in achieving conservation of fish and wildlife.
5. Enhance wildlife forensic lab capabilities to address resource protection needs and trends.
Implement and enforce regulations in a manner to promote compliance while safeguarding the natural resources.

1. Promote compliance with coastal fisheries regulations through proactive and responsive law enforcement patrols.
2. Promote compliance with freshwater fisheries regulations through proactive and responsive law enforcement patrols.
3. Promote compliance with wildlife regulations through proactive and responsive law enforcement patrols.
4. Promote compliance with environmental regulations through proactive and responsive law enforcement patrols.

Enhance the safety and outdoor experience of residents and visitors of Texas.

1. Enhance the boating safety and water recreation experience of residents and visitors through education and enforcement.
2. Respond to and investigate hunting and boating accidents.
3. Promote Texas’ outdoor environment as a safe and healthy recreational option for residents and visitors.
4. Maintain and support the long-term well-being of Texas’ natural resources for appropriate public use.
4 Provide for the safety and protection of residents and visitors of Texas.

1. Enforce the Texas Water Safety Act, the Texas Penal Code, and other applicable rules and statutes.
2. Promote effective relationships and cooperative roles with partner entities.
3. Provide search, rescue, and recovery services to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.
4. Provide immediate and effective disaster response and recovery through mutual-aid efforts.
5. Enhance the State Homeland Security effort, to include Port Security and Border Operations.
6. Provide Emergency Management services in coordination with the Texas Division of Emergency Management.
5 Promote and maintain a diverse, accountable, responsible and skilled workforce.

1. Enhance organizational effectiveness by streamlining policies, procedures and decision-making processes, to include evaluating staffing needs.
2. Promote clear and effective communication within the Division and throughout the Agency.
3. Strengthen partnerships with governmental officials, non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders in the implementation of core mission activities.
4. Improve recruitment standards and retain quality employees by providing professional training, career development, and leadership development programs.
5. Develop and implement media strategies to enhance the Texas Game Warden image and create public awareness of core mission activities.
6. Include administrative and support services in planning, procedures development, and core mission activities.
7. Utilize technologies to accomplish our missions while improving data access/communications to enhance officer safety.
8. Promote legislative support for the Division by providing information, highlighting successes, unique capabilities, and benefits to all of Texas’ residents and visitors.
9. Encourage each employee to be an ambassador for TPWD and its mission to Texas’ diverse residents and visitors.
10. Identify and develop non-traditional sustainable funding to support the Division mission.
11. Promote transparency and fiscally responsible business practices to honor the public trust.

In 1895, Texas Game Wardens began to patrol where no one else would go. The calls have not stopped since.
TEXAS AT A GLANCE:
- 28 million residents, and increasing
- 261,820 square miles of vast and diverse terrain
- 1.7 million surface acres of freshwater inland lakes
- 4 million surface acres of salt water
- 367 miles of coastline
- 80,000 miles of rivers and streams

TEXAS GAME WARDEN INTERACTIONS IN 2018:
- 11 million miles patrolled
- 120,000 boat patrol hours logged
- 1.2 million interactions with hunters and anglers
- 610,000 water safety interactions with public
- 357,000 constituents reached through events and outreach
- 90 million “Lone Star Law” television program viewership

ECONOMIC VALUE OF REGULATED RESOURCES:
- $1.8 billion Hunting
- $1.8 billion Wildlife viewing
- $3.6 billion Recreational fishing
- $6 billion Boating
- $3.6 billion Commercial fishing
- $224.3 billion Generated by Texas ports
- $107 million Annual license sales

Each day, over 550 Texas game wardens dedicate themselves to protecting the state’s natural resources. It’s a legacy they’ve carried on since game wardens first enforced resource conservation laws in the Lone Star State prior to the turn of the century (1895). Texas Game Wardens also help to keep their communities safe, patrol the state’s vast waterways, and respond to natural disasters.
For 19 wardens, that dedication cost them their lives.

A memorial honoring Texas Game Wardens who lost their lives in the line of duty has been erected at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, Texas. The Memorial Plaza features a bronze life-sized Game Warden statue accompanied by the Texas and American flags.
LEADERSHIP

The Law Enforcement Division holds its leaders to high expectations and demands that each leader:

Display Excellence of Character
• Strive to achieve the highest standards of behavior
• Model the fundamental values of integrity, professionalism, dedication, and flexibility

Embrace the Mission
• Strive to meet our mission goals
• Promote TPWD’s leadership role in resource conservation
• Increase the visibility of TPWD through active partnerships
• See beyond current details to the big picture
• Understand the forces that have shaped our past and will shape our future

Demonstrate Supervisory Courage
• Act with fortitude, courage and confidence in the face of challenges
• Support and implement agency policies and principles
• Accept responsibility
• Do the right things for the right reasons
• Accept risk and challenges as opportunities
• Hold themselves and others accountable for behavior which conflicts with our mission and goals

Lead by Example
• Set the standard for others to follow
• Ask others to do only what they themselves are willing to do
• Know the job firsthand
• Get out and circulate among the Game Wardens
• Stay in touch and pay attention

Stay Action-oriented
• Know what needs to be accomplished
• Encourage innovation and efficiency
• Seek new and creative solutions to problems
• Set goals and achieve them
• Pursue objectives with passion and optimism

Communicate Effectively
• Speak and write clearly
• Articulate a vision for others to follow
• Remain accessible and approachable
• Serve as a conduit for those above and below in the chain of command to share information

Motivate Others
• Share a passion for excellence
• Persuade rather than coerce
• Instill loyalty and a sense of pride
• Recognize and reward performance

Respect and Serve Others
• Demonstrate dedication to public service
• Honor the legacy of our unique agency and all who have been called to serve
• Honor and uphold the traditions and institution of law enforcement
• Strive to be fair and consistent with everyone

Build an Invincible Team
• Promote cooperation and teamwork
• Insist on open communication
• Inspire team spirit and camaraderie
• Share rewards and responsibilities

Empower Others
• Mentor
• Help others realize their potential
• Coach constructively
• Share knowledge and experience
• Trust the power of the team