

VOLUNTEER

Opportunities for Individuals and Groups

Help protect wild things and places. Not only do many of these outdoor programs rely on our volunteers, 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 across the state and in your community. Serve your country through AmeriCorps and TPWD by joining one of our projects.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/volunteer

Like us!

Connect with all your favorite TPWD programs, parks, sites, and events via social media:

www.tpwd.texas.gov/socialmedia



Learn more about these and other opportunities:



www.tpwd.texas.gov/education

Check out the events calendar:

www.tpwd.texas.gov/calendar

Or call toll-free: (800) 792-1112

OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



EXPERIENCE • EXPLORE
TEACH • DISCOVER
VOLUNTEER

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.

✉ AnglerEdu@tpwd.texas.gov

Becoming an Outdoors Woman

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.

✉ OutdoorWoman@tpwd.texas.gov

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 Sept. 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.

✉ boater.education@tpwd.texas.gov

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.

✉ BuffaloSoldiers@tpwd.texas.gov

Get Outside

Youth can shoot an arrow, learn to cast, meet a warden, find your next state park adventure, win camping equipment and more as part of our Outdoor Kids Challenge. Come out with the family and join TPWD staff when we attend our next festival and special event. Watch for upcoming events throughout the state on the TPWD calendar.

✉ get.outside@tpwd.texas.gov

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 online + 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.

✉ HunterEdu@tpwd.texas.gov

National Archery in the Schools and Community Archery Programs

Introduce students and new users to archery, a safe and accessible sport. During TEKS-applicable and fun activities, participants shoot at bullseye and 3D targets using equipment designed to fit everyone. Schools can qualify for a state tournament with scholarship awards! To become an instructor, leaders must participate in a one-day, accredited archery instructor training led by TPWD staff or partners. Grants, guidance, and loaner equipment are available.

✉ ArcheryEdu@tpwd.texas.gov

Texas Outdoor Family

Bring your family out for a fun-filled weekend and learn to camp with us! No experience or equipment necessary. We'll teach you the basics of camping, fishing, kayaking, geocaching, fire-building and more. We also offer a community partnership program for eligible educators, non-profits, and veteran's groups seeking to provide this experience to their audiences.

✉ tofsp@tpwd.texas.gov

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, Ambassadors complete community engagement, social media and service projects to promote state parks. Regional application periods open three times per year.

✉ ambassadors@tpwd.texas.gov

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.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/seacenter

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.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/tffc

State Parks and Historic Sites

Over 90 Texas state parks and historic sites offer family fun and learning opportunities based on each unique location, like 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.

www.TexasStateParks.org

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

Across the state, the 49 WMAs 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.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/wma

TEACH

Distance Learning and School Engagement

Learn about the wild things and wild places of Texas through virtual and in-person experiences! Free, TEKS-aligned TPWDiscover programming turns our public lands into outdoor classrooms. Explore live and recorded programming and other educational resources.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/education/resources/

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. These include "Coastal Expo," "Dip Into Texas Waters," "Texas Wetlands Discovery," "Wild in the City," "Safari Trunk" and more.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/education/resources/resources/loaner-trunks

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.

✉ ProjectWILD@tpwd.texas.gov

Texas Water Education

"Texas Aquatic Science" features real-world inland and coastal activities in an online textbook, teacher guide, and videos for students grades 6-12. "Texas Waters" inspires adults to learn about aquatic habitats and resource management. Earn a Texas Waters Specialist designation and provide aquatic education, outreach, and stewardship in your community.

✉ ConservationEdu@tpwd.texas.gov

www.tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education

DISCOVER

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 providing technical guidance and outreach; operating parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and providing leadership in local conservation efforts. The Texas Master Naturalist program is sponsored by TPWD and Texas AgriLife Extension.

www.txmn.tamu.edu

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.

www.tpwd.texas.gov/trackers

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. Keep up with the research, find activities, events, and natural spaces.

www.naturerockstexas.org

www.texaschildreninnature.org

MORE RESOURCES

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

- Teacher Resources
- The Fish Art Contest
- Educational Display Permits
- The Junior Ranger Program
- Texas Wildscapes

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.

✉ Rec.Grants@tpwd.texas.gov

www.tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants

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