

# The Spring Lake Outdoor Education Project

Supporting your research through community-oriented programming grants



*The rising STAR of Texas*

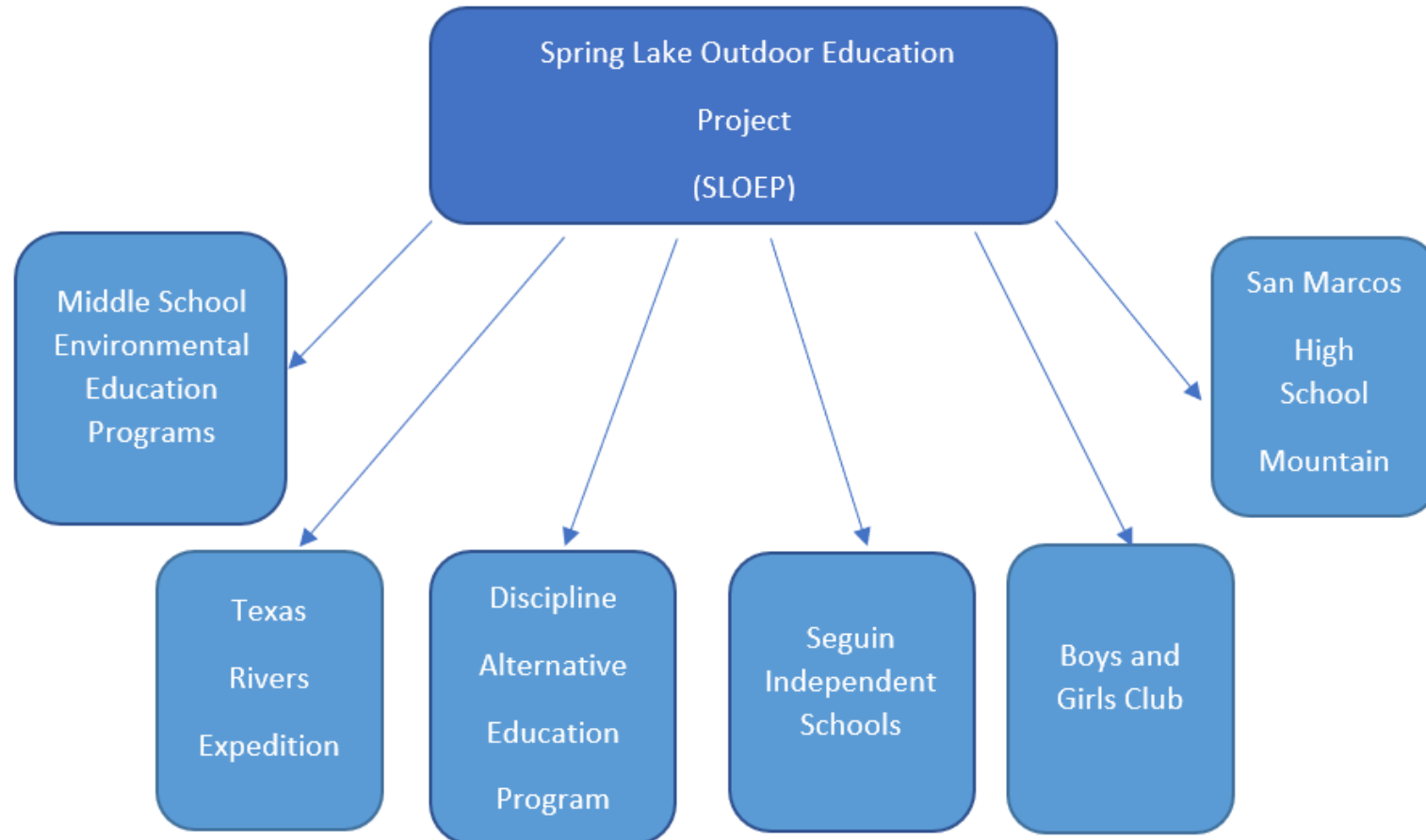
# Our Research Team

- Dr. Anthony Deringer – HHP (TPWD Co-PI)
- Dr. Kent Griffin – HHP (TPWD Co-PI)
- Allie Thomas (TPWD Co-I)
- Dr. Rob Dussler – The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment (TPWD Co-I)
- Dr. Christine Norton – School of Social Work (TPWD Co-I)
- Dr. Shelly Forsythe – College of Education
- Andrew Morreale – Outdoor Recreation
- Dr. Lindsay Kipp-HHP

# Selected Successful Grants From Our Group

- Deringer, S. A., Griffin, L.K., & Thomas, A. (2017). *Strengthening experiential education opportunities in central Texas*. Texas Parks and Wildlife Co-Op Grant. Grant provides resources to examine the impact of experiential education programming on underserved youth participating in an after-school program. Funded - \$49,451.
- Griffin, L.K., Deringer, S.A., Dussler, R., & Thomas, A. (2019). *Strengthening experiential education opportunities in central Texas*. Texas Parks and Wildlife Co-Op Grant. Grant provides resources to examine the impact of experiential education programming on underserved youth participating in an after-school program and a 6-day expedition trip Funded - \$49,969.
- Griffin, L.K., Meaney, K.S., & Kipp, L.E. (2016). United Way of Hay's County Grant. Funding is for the Cycling4 Fitness and 4Life Youth development program at San Marcos High School. The program targets youth who may be struggling financially, academically or psycho-socially. My role on this grant is P.I. The award amount was \$5,000.00
- Deringer, S. A. (2019). *San Marcos youth master plan funding for research conducted at Spring Lake Outdoor Education Program*. Research on environmental education afterschool programs. Funded - \$3,360
- Deringer, S. A. & Walters, S. (2019). *San Marcos youth master plan funding for research conducted at Goal Post*. Research on low organized activities in afterschool programming. Funded - \$4,320.
- Griffin, L.K., Deringer, S.A. & Kipp, L.E. (2019). City of San Marcos Youth Master Plan Grant. Funding is for the San Marcos youth development mountain bike program. My role on this grant is P.I. The award amount is \$2,500.00
- Deringer, S. A. (2018). *San Marcos youth master plan funding for research conducted at Spring Lake Outdoor Education Program*. Research on environmental education afterschool programs. Funded - \$4,000.

# Spring Lake Outdoor Education Project









# Texas Parks and Wildlife Co-Op Grant

Mission - To provide funding to tax-exempt organizations for programming that engages under-represented populations in TPWD mission-oriented outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental education activities.

Priorities –

1. Outdoor Recreation
2. Environmental Education
3. Conservation

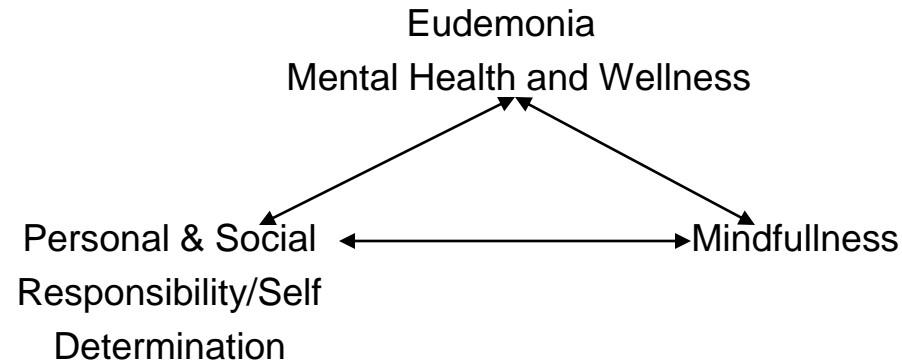
Up to \$60,000 for programs that meet the priorities.

# How Have We Used Program Grant Money

- ❖ Busses for after-school programs
  - ❖ Graduate assistants
  - ❖ Program supplies
  - ❖ Hiring program staff
  - ❖ Training faculty and graduate assistants
  - ❖ Equipment – kayaks, backpacks, camping gear, mountain bikes, trailers
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- ❖ While the grant doesn't directly fund research, all of the above have contributed to our research "lab" (community engaged scholars lab) to accomplish our research objectives.

# Research Out of SLOEP

1. Year one was spent building our team and identifying research projects.
2. Year two we were interrupted by COVID-19, however, our research plan is below:



Two publications with five more planned:

- Griffin, L.K., Meaney, K., & Deringer, S.A. (2020). Until I am just too old to turn the pedals: Exploring motivational characteristics of participants in a high school mountain bike program. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation, and Leadership*. (12)4, 397-408, doi: 10.18666/JOREL-2020-V12-I4-10182.
- Dussler, R., & Deringer, S.A. (2020). Exploring the effects of interpreters' experiences of mindfulness interventions on their connection with nature and subsequent environmental interpretation. *Journal of Interpretation Research*. 25(1), 26-45. doi:10.1177/1092587220963556.



# Future

1. In the process of re-applying for 2022-23 grant funding now.
2. We plan to execute our research agenda on the new grant cycle.
3. We hope to begin applying for larger grants using the existing program and publications to support larger research projects

# What We Have Learned

- ❖ Program grants can allow faculty to produce research, but the following caveats should be considered:
  - The dollar to time ratio – the Co-Op grant has some relatively heavy reporting.
  - How well does the program fit into faculty teaching and research?
    - Cost/Benefit dichotomy.
    - Rarely any buy-outs in programmatic grants.
    - Does the grant allow for hiring a program coordinator or graduate assistants and to what degree?