

## Spring 2021 News

## Registration Open! Aquatic Science Adventure Camp 2021



We are so excited to announce the re-opening of our Aquatic Science Adventure Camps in 2021! A few camps have already filled, so don't delay your registration. Our program will look quite different from previous years, largely because of COVID-19 safety-related modifications. But we still have an action packed summer of science and adventure for curious minds. All of our 2021 camps will take place on or within walking distance from the Texas State University campus in San Marcos. Campers will enjoy a mix of fun, outdoor-adventure activities, hands-on science, games, and a chance to interact with interesting guest speakers. One week before the start of a camp, parents/ guardians of registered campers will received detailed camp information that includes drop-off and pick-up location and procedures, what to bring, and required medical release and liability waivers. In 2021, we will be offering 1-day and 3-day camps that run from 9:00AM – 4:00PM. Families can choose from three different 1-day camp options.

**Aquatic Insects:** Spend the morning paddleboarding down the San Marcos River and the afternoon exploring the aquatic macroinvertebrates that live near the San Marcos headwaters. Use research-grade microscopes to identify organisms and learn what they can tell us about the health of the river.

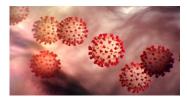
**Aquatic Ecology:** Start the day at the Meadows Center exploring Spring Lake in kayaks and a glass-bottom boat. In the afternoon, learn about the components of a habitat and explore different aquatic environments. Campers will model the complexities of habitats and identify biological processes within a habitat.

**Water Chemistry:** Enjoy a relaxing morning tubing down the San Marcos River before collecting water samples from different natural and manmade water bodies at Texas State University. Use chemical reactions to measure water quality and learn about how the flow of energy connects living organisms with their environment.

**Triple Crown:** Can't decide which camp to attend? Do all three! These three consecutive days of programs include all activities. Campers will be in the same group for the duration of the camp, affording more opportunity to spend time with old friends or make new ones! REGISTER NOW!

| Camp            | Ages  | Dates                  | San Marcos Residents* | Non-residents |
|-----------------|-------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Aquatic Insects | 9-12  | June 8                 | \$30                  | \$60          |
| Aquatic Insects | 12-15 | June 22                | \$30                  | \$60          |
| Aquatic Ecology | 9-12  | June 29                | \$30                  | \$60          |
| Aquatic Ecology | 12-15 | July 20                | \$30                  | \$60          |
| Water Chemistry | 9-12  | July 27                | \$30                  | \$60          |
| Water Chemistry | 12-15 | August 10              | \$30                  | \$60          |
| Triple Crown    | 9-12  | June 15-17; July 13-15 | \$90                  | \$180         |
| Triple Crown    | 12-15 | July 6-8; August 3-5   | \$90                  | \$180         |

## 2021 Aquatic Science Adventure Camp COVID-19 Safety



To minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission, we are implementing the safety procedures outlined below. Additionally, we will continue to monitor the global COVID-19 pandemic, updating our safety procedures as necessary, based on recommendations from the CDC and Texas State University.

- camp group sizes are reduced to 10 campers and three or fewer vaccinated adults
- camps sessions are at least 5 days apart
- high-touch surfaces and equipment are disinfected between uses
- camp activities are modified to minimize sharing equipment and increase social distancing
- campers will not be transported in closed vehicles
- campers will be responsible for bringing their own lunches from home
- standard operating procedures and university guidelines are in place to respond to campers or staff that experience COVID-like symptoms
- parents and guardians will remain in their vehicles for check-in and check-out

## **Spotlight on Research**



Researchers at the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center, along with biologists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Zara Environmental LLC have described a new species of amphipod in the genus Stygobromus. The publication has been accepted to the journal Subterranean Biology where it will appear later this spring. The tiny crustacean occurs in springs from northern Comal County to southern Bell County, along the I35 corridor in Central Texas. Although several species of Stygobromus occur in the area, the new species appears to be most closely related to species in the Western United States.

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