

The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment



TEKS CURRICULUM GUIDE

Pre-K



**THE MEADOWS CENTER
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

The Meadows Center

The Meadows Center Educational Tours mission is to provide people of all ages with the ability to recognize Spring Lake as a unique freshwater ecosystem through interpretative interactive experiences that engages the audience in an exploration of interconnections between all living things and water.

All tours require a two-week advanced reservation. Tour dates are not guaranteed until your confirmation notice from The Meadows Center Education Office has been processed. The listed group rates apply to any group of 15 people or more. Prices subject to change without notice. Listed prices are for school groups and non-profit organizations.



Activities for Pre-K

1. Glass-Bottom Boat Ride

Length: 30 minutes

As students glide across Spring Lake in glass-bottom boats, they have a rare opportunity to see underwater life from a different perspective. View over 1,000 springs that bubble up 150 million gallons a day of clear water from the Edwards Aquifer to form Spring Lake, the headwaters of the San Marcos River. Declared a critical Habitat by the Federal Government in 1980, Spring Lake is the home of several endangered species.

TEKS Curriculum Unit Connections: Living Systems, Aquatic Plants and Animals, Habitat, Aquifer and Springs, Endangered Species, Native vs. Exotic Species, Adaptations, Water Conservation

2. Wetlands Walk

Length: 30 minutes

Journey over a 1/10 mile floating boardwalk through our wetlands habitat. Students will learn about what wetlands are and what species live in them. Stroll by "Turtle Island" where turtles often sunbathe and birds migrate through.

TEKS Curriculum Unit Connections: Wetlands, Water Conservation, Habitat, Living Systems, Aquatic Plants and Animals, Soil Erosion

3. Endangered Species Exhibit

Length: 15-30 minutes

Students will see live endangered species on display in this new aquarium exhibit.

TEKS Curriculum Unit Connections: Endangered Species, Water, Edwards Aquifer, Adaptations, Living Systems, Aquatic Plants and Animals, Habitat, Aquifer and Springs, Native vs. Exotic Species, Water Conservation

4. Bug Picking and Water Sampling

Length: 15-30 minutes

Students will look through water samples and have the chance to see small aquatic bugs and snails. Participants will discover what bugs live in the water at Spring Lake by exploring water samples.

5. The Great Frog Race

Length: 15 minutes

Oh No! Our pretend wetlands habitat has been polluted with trash. We must race against time to save our frogs one-by-one. This fun obstacle course is sure to be a hit with Pre-K through early elementary classes.

TEKS Curriculum Unit Connections: Habitat, Life Cycles, Wetlands, Pollution

Additional Materials

Additional information on water education can be found on the Texas Aquatic Science website at <http://texasaquaticscience.org/>. This website provides additional learning opportunities and materials for a variety of subjects concerning water, including “Water is Life”, “Water for the people and the Environment”, “Bays and Estuaries”, and many others.



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I book a group tour?

You may book a tour online at <http://www.aquarena.txstate.edu/Educational-Tours/Tour-Reservation-Form.html>. If you have questions please call 512-245-7540. Our office hours will vary depending on park traffic, so please leave a message and we will call you back.

How far in advance should I book my tour?

We require two weeks advance notice for group tours. Please remember the days during March through August can fill up several months in advance, so please book your tour as soon as possible.

Do you have a maximum number of students that can attend the field trip?

There is not a set maximum number of students per field trip. Your tour-booking agent will discuss the best activities for your group's size when you book your tour. We recommend booking your tour early for best choice of dates.

Do you have a minimum number of chaperones required?

One teacher per class is sufficient for our tours. The one required adult should never leave the group alone with the tour guide. You may choose to bring additional teachers and parents if you wish (please check your tour confirmation for fee information). The boats will comfortably seat 25 people each, so additional adults may need to ride on a separate boat than the rest of the group.

What age groups are your programs appropriate for?

All ages. We customize our programs for your group.

I would like to do something different than listed on your website, can you accommodate my group?

We try our best to accommodate special requests.

Do I need to book a specific time for my tour?

Yes, you will book a specific date and time for your tour. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start time of your tour. We apologize that we are unable to push back the start times of tours. If your group is late we may need to cut a portion of your tour time. Please call 512-245-7570 and push 0 to notify us that you will be late.

What if it rains?

If it rains on your tour date you will have the option to reschedule. Please call 512-245-7570 and push 0 on the day of your tour and let a staff member know that your group will not be coming. The boats are enclosed and will still run unless there is lightning. We have limited indoor space so please dress for the weather if it is raining on your tour date.

Booking a Tour

Web:

<http://www.meadowscenter.txstate.edu/Education/EducationalTours.html>

Phone: (512) 245-7540