



## Aquatic Science Adventure Camps Summer 2024 Teacher Information



EDWARDS AQUIFER RESEARCH & DATA CENTER  
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Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in this summer's Aquatic Science Camps at Texas State University. We are very much looking forward to your participation. The Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center (EARDC) has been conducting the Aquatic Science Adventure Camps since 1988. Thousands of children from all over the United States have participated in these camps and gained a greater understanding and appreciation of our most precious of natural resources; water. Cultivating a sense of respect and stewardship of the environment in the next generation has been, and will continue to be, one of the primary goals of EARDC. You are a big part of what we do here at the EARDC and the camps could not happen without our great teachers! We desire to not only educate and enrich our campers, but to also equip science teachers like you with tools, techniques, and up-to-date information that will aid in your own professional development.

Teachers who assist with our overnight residential camps will receive free meals and lodging for the week (Sunday-Friday) and a \$500 stipend. Additionally, 20 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit and Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC) credit are earned for participation in the camp. Teachers who assist with our Explorer (non-overnight) sessions can receive 16 hours of CPE and TEEAC and a \$250 stipend.

Enclosed you will find information about the camps, a description of teacher responsibilities while at camp, and instructions for the application process. Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Kellie Donajkowski  
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Texas State University  
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## About the camps



### Overnight Expedition Camps

The Overnight Expedition Camp runs from Sunday afternoon through Friday afternoon. Campers will spend the first part of the week on the main Texas State University campus and stay in a residence hall. The last 3 days of camp are spent out at the scenic University Camp, a Texas State-owned property right along the shores of the beautiful Blanco River.

### Explorer Day Camps

We offer a 5-day camp for families who live close to San Marcos and want to give their kids a chance to experience the full Expedition Camp program but without the overnight stay requirement. The camp runs from 8am to 5pm Monday-Friday and features many of the daytime activities from the overnight camp including river rafting, caving, and scuba diving.

Overnight Expedition Camps		
Stipend: \$500		
Dates	Session	Ages
June 2 - 7, 2024	Overnight Expedition Camp 1	9-12
June 9 - 14, 2024	Overnight Expedition Camp 2	12-14
June 16 - 21, 2024	Overnight Expedition Camp 3	9-12
June 23 - 28, 2024	Overnight Expedition Camp 4	12-14
July 7 - 12, 2024	Overnight Expedition Camp 5	9-12

Explorer Day Camps		
Stipend: \$250		
Dates	Session	Ages
July 15 - 19, 2024	Explorer Day Camp 1	12-14
July 22 - 26, 2024	Explorer Day Camp 2	9-12

## Teacher responsibilities

Teachers are expected to participate in all assigned camp activities, help maintain a learning environment during educational activities, help maintain order during recreational activities and in the lodges, and assist students with various science activities. Teachers are not expected to lead activities or have expert knowledge of content. Teachers will have designated time off during the day (one activity block, if desired).

- Stay overnight with campers in dormitories (overnight camps only) and assist campers with needs that may arise including illness, homesickness, conflict management etc.
- Assist with camp check in and check out by greeting families and making them feel welcome.
- Serve as an extra set of hands and eyes, providing support during EARDC staff-led activities.
- Be able to drive 12-passenger vans to various activities up to 1 hour away.
- Assist camp staff with enforcement of camp behavior and safety rules.
- According to university policy, teachers who witness or are told about potential sexual misconduct are required to report immediately to the Texas State University Title IX office (512) 245-2539) and camp director.

For more information email [EARDC\\_education@txstate.edu](mailto:EARDC_education@txstate.edu) or call Kellie Donajkowski at 512-245-6176.

## Camp Facilities

### University Camp (U Camp)

Campers in overnight sessions will have the chance to spend the second half of the week at the beautiful University Camp, a property owned by Texas State University along the shores of the Blanco River near Wimberley. U Camp is about a 20-minute drive from the main Texas State campus. Campers will stay in one of two lodges, Bluebonnet or Juniper, (gender separated) with teacher supervision.



Bluebonnet Lodge

Teachers will be assigned a separate sleeping area. Lodges are equipped with kitchens and climate control. Restrooms and showers are available in the lodge (Bluebonnet) or in a separate bath house (Juniper). While at U Camp, campers will enjoy the many amenities

the property has to offer including prime swimming areas, hiking trails, athletic fields, and much more!

#### Freeman Aquatic Biology Building (FAB)

Most of the scientific discovery sessions will be held at the Freeman Aquatic Biology Building on the main Texas State University campus. Camp check-in and pick-up will also be held at FAB. FAB was built specifically to be a center for cutting-edge aquatic biology research. The grounds surrounding FAB feature a spring-fed creek, an artesian well, numerous ponds, and is located directly across the street from the headwaters of the San Marcos River and Spring Lake. FAB is home to the EARDC offices and many active research laboratories and campers will have access to high-quality equipment and facilities to investigate the natural world around them.



Brogdon Hall

#### Texas State University Residence Halls

The residence halls at Texas State are air-conditioned and feature common rooms with a TV and pool tables, laundry rooms, vending machines, and a full kitchen. The rooms are equipped with either 1 or 2 twin beds and desks and chairs. Most also have a chest of drawers and a closet. Teachers and staff will be assigned a private room on the same floor as the campers.

## General Camp Information

1. **APPLICATION PROCESS** – To apply, please fill out and send by email or fax the following:
  - Teacher Application Form
  - One letter of recommendation from a principal, assistant principal, department head or other administrator
2. **TRAINING**
  - All staff, including teachers must take an online child abuse prevention training course. This is a legal requirement of Senate Bill 1414. Upon receipt of your application, you will receive instructions on how to take this online course. The course takes approximately 1 hour to complete.
  - Orientation (1-2 hours) before campers check in on the first day of camp.
3. **ORIENTATION** – For overnight camp sessions, please plan to arrive on Sunday at 12:00 pm for teacher orientation. **You must bring a current driver's license AND a social security card or a passport in order to complete the hiring process!** Orientation will consist of filling out hiring paperwork (if you have not already done so) and a tour of the facilities as well as going over the schedule and duties.
4. **CLOTHING** - Central Texas summers are hot and humid, so warm weather clothing will be appropriate for most occasions. Casual clothes and sportswear, such as shorts, modest swimsuits, cut-offs, tennis shoes, water shoes and sandals w/back strap are recommended. For all field trips old or inexpensive tennis shoes or water shoes are essential. There will be many water activities and wearing shoes or quality strap-on sandals (Chacos, Tevas, Keens, etc.) for tubing, rafting, sampling, etc., is much easier and safer on the feet. Flip-flops are fine for wearing around camp or to the showers but are not sufficient for outdoor activities. Several of the activities require extensive walking, so a good pair of rubber-soled walking shoes or light hiking boots is essential. A hat is recommended for outdoor activities. A sports strap to secure eyeglasses is strongly recommended to prevent their loss in the water while tubing or rafting. A sweatshirt or sweater is recommended for air-conditioned buildings (which can sometimes be quite chilly in the mornings!). You can never tell when it will rain during the summer so rainwear (such as a disposable poncho) may come in handy. Having a day pack is helpful when traveling to excursions and walking around campus.

5. **MEALS** - Tentative meal times are:

Breakfast: 8:00 - 9:00

Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00

Dinner: 6:00 - 7:00

Meals will be a combination of on-campus dining hall and picnic-style options. Dining hall meals are buffet-style and feature a variety of healthy and delicious food. Picnic meals will consist of sandwiches, tacos, or other similar meals. We take food safety very seriously so please let us know if you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions.

6. **LINENS and LAUNDRY** – **Linen services are not provided**, however the dorms do have laundry rooms that are available for staff to use. You will need to bring linens (twin XL size), pillow, blanket, bath towels and a swimming towel. Staff members are asked to bring enough clothes for a full week. A sleeping bag may be used instead of linens if desired.

7. **TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICE** – There are no landline phones at the dorms on campus, however there is good cell reception at most locations we visit. There is also good WiFi coverage on campus that will be accessible for staff. Phone service at U Camp is a little spotty but most major networks have at least some reception. There is no WiFi at U Camp. There is a landline at the caretaker's house for emergencies.