



Winter 2023 News

Aquatic Science Adventure Camps 2023

ASAC 2023 Camp Dates		
Date	Camp	Age
June 4 - 9	Overnight Expedition 1	9-12
June 11 - 16	Overnight Expedition 2	12-14
June 18 - 23	Overnight Expedition 3	9-12
June 25 - 30	Overnight Expedition 4	12-14
July 9- 14	Overnight Expedition 5	9-12
July 17 - 21	Explorer Day Camp 1	9-12
July 24 - 28	Explorer Day Camp 2	12-14
July 31 - August 4	Aquatic Investigators	15-16
August 7	Discovery Day 1	12-14
August 8	Discovery Day 2	9-12
August 9	Discovery Day 3	7-9

Registration opens on Monday, January 9, 2023!!!

We are gearing up for another exciting summer filled with science, adventure, and fun! Registration for camps will open on January 9, 2023. There are five Overnight Expedition Camps with space for 24 campers each, two weeks of Explorer Day Camps that accommodate up to 40 campers for each age group, an Aquatic Investigator camp for up to 20 campers, and Discovery Day Camps that can have up to 24 campers each. Go to <https://www.eardc.txst.edu/camp.html> on Monday, January 9th to register for camp.

Camp Descriptions

Overnight Expedition Camps (Registration Deposit-\$250) - The overnight camp runs from Sunday afternoon through Friday afternoon. Campers will spend the first part of the week on the main Texas State University campus staying in a residence hall. The last 3 days of camp are spent at the scenic University Camp, a Texas State-owned property located along the shores of the beautiful Blanco River. Campers will experience a wide variety of exciting, educational activities including river rafting, scuba diving, exploring a wild cave, ropes course, and even a natural water slide! Throughout the week, campers will engage with our knowledgeable staff by participating in scientific investigations related to water and the environment. Cost: \$1000.

Explorer Day Camps (Registration Deposit \$150) - We offer a week-long day camp for campers who would like the camp experience without an overnight component. The camp runs from 8:30am to 5pm Monday-Friday and features many of the daytime science and recreational activities from the overnight camp including river rafting, caving, scuba diving, and more. Lunch is provided. Cost: \$500.

Aquatic Investigators Day Camp (Registration Deposit \$150) - This camp runs from 8:30am to 5pm Monday-Friday and features a variety of adventure and more advanced science programming. Campers will get the opportunity to learn lab and outdoor research skills, engage in conservation efforts, and meet a variety of professionals in the field of Aquatic Science. This camp is geared towards campers 15-16 years old who are interested in science as a career pathway and/or are just passionate about learning science. Lunch is provided. Cost: \$500

Discovery Day Camps - Discovery Day Camps run from 9am to 4pm. This year we are offering an option for 7-9 year olds! Please do not sign up your child for multiple days:

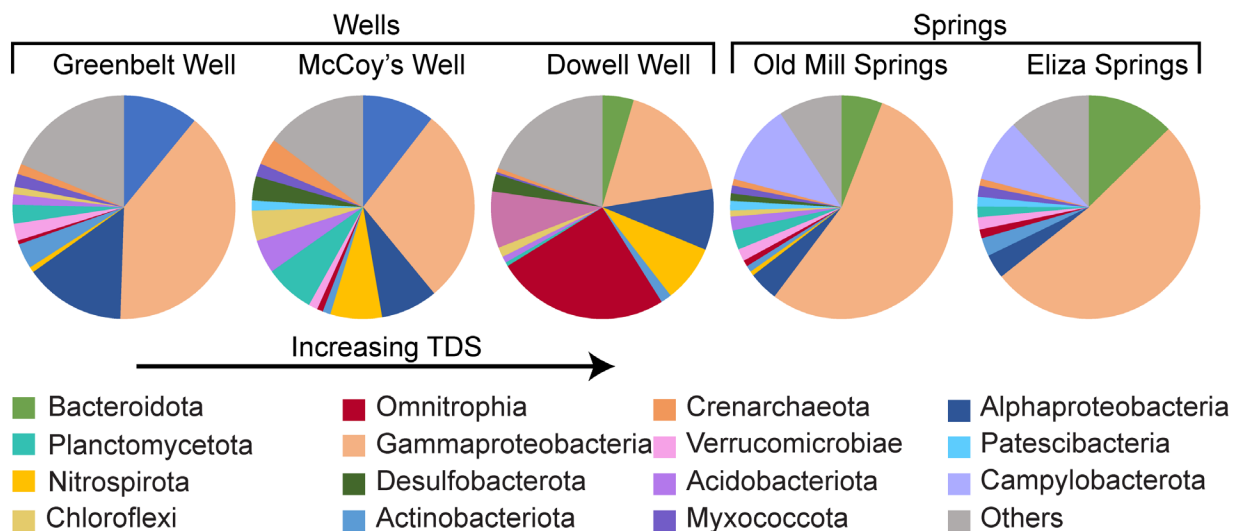
programming is the same each day and adjusted to be age appropriate. Lunch is not provided; campers will need to bring their own food for the day. Cost: \$60.

Jobs at Camp

We are looking for Counselors and Teacher staff for the summer. Check out the descriptions and learn how to apply at <https://www.eardc.txst.edu/camp/camp-resources.html> . Want to learn more? Email EARDC_education@txstate.edu or call 512-245-6176.

Spotlight on Research

Here at the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center, we have a huge interest in the small things living underground. In addition to fish, crustaceans, snails, insects, and other small animals, diverse communities of microbes also call aquifers home. And these microscopic organisms play an outsized role in groundwater ecosystems. EARDC scientists have recently partnered with geomicrobiologists from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, to characterize the naturally occurring microbial communities in the Edwards Aquifer in and around Barton Springs in Austin, Texas. Those researchers not only found diverse microbial communities, but they showed that those microbes are expressing more than 50 genes involved in multiple, non-photosynthetic carbon-fixation pathways. These results build on earlier research suggesting that, like plants using sun energy to grow, microbes in the aquifer are using chemical energy to turn inorganic carbon (like carbon dioxide) into organic, microbial biomass. It's life without light, and just like at hydrothermal vents in the deep ocean, these microbes serve as an important food source at the base of a complex food web.



TDS = Total Dissolved Solids

Citation: Rigoni, H. R., A. S. Engel, B. Hutchins, & B. Schwartz. 2022. Microbial base of the Barton Springs Segment food web, Edwards Aquifer, Texas. National Groundwater Quality Association, Groundwater Week. December 6-8, 2022. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Analytical Lab Hours

The EARDC analytical lab is currently open Monday – Thursday, 8am – 5 pm, closed for lunch 12-1:15pm, bacteriological samples are not accepted on Fridays, only by special request.

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