

# SLEA PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION/SITE OVERVIEW

Are you passionate about addressing water quality issues, restoring local ecosystems, or raising awareness about environmental threats? The Texas Stream Team's Student Leadership in Environmental Action Award is an opportunity for eligible students to engage in real-world environmental challenges.

This program will help you familiarize yourself with Texas Stream Team protocols and apply them to a community-based project. After becoming certified in Texas Stream Team water quality monitoring, you'll select a site along a waterbody in your community to monitor. You'll conduct at least three monitoring events, identify an environmental challenge, and propose a solution.

The winning project will be showcased, and one student will be recognized with the Student Leadership in Environmental Action Award!

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### Participants must:

- Be certified through the Texas Stream Team Standard Core and/or Riparian Evaluation training
- Select a monitoring site within their community
- Conduct at least three monitoring events throughout the project
- Identify an environmental challenge at their site
- Propose an implementable solution
- Create a presentation detailing the project and their experience

### Presentation Requirements:

- An overview of their site conditions with a map showing its location
- Identification of a problem, including the impact on the community and ecosystem
- Description of how Texas Stream Team protocols were used.
- Contacts made within the community, if any.
- Proposed solution with action steps
- Explanation of the community impact of the solution
- Takeaways, lessons learned, and future implications

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- You must have visited your site location at least 3 times during the project and recorded water quality data on a Texas Stream Team environmental monitoring form.
- You must save at least 3 forms as proof of your site visits and project participation.
- You must create a project presentation in one of the following formats: [Prezi](#), [Google Slides](#), [PowerPoint](#), [ArcGIS StoryMaps](#), or [Website \(WordPress/Google Sites\)](#).

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Once you have completed your training or been paired with a community scientist to assist you, you will select a monitoring site. During each visit, carefully observe the physical environment and record the water quality test results. Keep the following in mind as you make your observations:

- Is there excessive trash in the area?
- Fishing line hanging from trees?
- Is it heavily visited on weekends causing erosion in certain access points?

**You will collaborate with your teacher or mentor to develop a project proposal, which should include:**

- Site Location: Identify a specific site where you will monitor and focus on the environmental challenge.
- Environmental Challenge: Clearly define the environmental issue at your chosen site that you aim to address.

**Once these elements are established, you can begin creating your project presentation.**

**Examples of eligible projects include:**

- Litter and Pollution - Monitor the water quality in a local stream before and after a clean-up event to address litter and trash pollution.
- Acid Rain Awareness - Measure the pH of water from local streams and compare it to the pH of rainwater to understand the impact of acid rain and potential sources.
- Temperature - Monitor water temperature at different times of the day and suggest planting trees along riparian zones to provide shade and stabilize temperatures.
- Construction Impact - Monitor a site near construction work to understand how construction activities affect water quality.

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

You must submit your project presentation to your teacher by the deadline that is given. Your teacher will submit projects to Texas Stream Team via the submission's portal no later than May 1.

Your teacher will score your project and submit the top three projects to the Texas Stream Team for the final review. Texas Stream Team staff will score projects using the same rubric that your teacher will use. Your project will be scored alongside several other projects from across Texas.

The Texas Stream Team will announce the winning awardee to the teacher by May 15. Awardees will receive a certificate, a prize, and recognition from the Texas Stream Team program and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, and the achievement will be celebrated on the Texas Stream Team website, newsletter, and social media platforms!