

SCHOOL PROGRAMS : 8TH TO 12TH GRADE

PROGRAM INFORMATION

MAX: 25 students max/program

LENGTH: 3 hours in/outdoor

LOCATION: Sheffield Education Center
2201 Barton Springs Road

[MAP](#) (25 students max)

[Program Registration Form](#)



AQUATIC ECOLOGY

Experience a watershed as field biologists would! Classmates will work together to conduct environmental observations, stream modeling, data collection, and invertebrate sampling of an urban creek*. Field research will empower students to understand water quality indicators, human impact on aquatic ecosystems, and indicator species firsthand. Aquatic invertebrates will be brought to a lab setting at the Sheffield Education Center to observe using dissecting scopes and handheld microscopes, where the unique lifestyles and adaptations of local species will be discussed. Students will determine a water quality rating based on turbidity, pH, nitrates, dissolved oxygen, phosphates, chlorine, and our macroinvertebrate survey.

Also highlighted is Austin's endangered Barton Springs Salamander, a highly pertinent example of an indicator species in our city. Students visit Eliza Springs to discuss human impact on a sensitive species, their significance, and how they are being protected.

*Field work will be done at Barton Creek, adjacent to Barton Springs Pool. Please note that all students must wear water shoes in order to participate.

TEKS 5 a, b; 7 b, c; 9 a, b; 10 a, b, c; 12 c, d, e