

Austin guide to...

EARTH CAMP



Earth Camp is the City of Austin's four-day, outdoor, hands-on science program for fifth-grade students. All Title I schools in AISD are eligible to participate. The primary focus is on Austin watersheds, the Edwards Aquifer and water quality protection. Students study the

geography and natural history of Austin's watersheds as well as hydrology, geology and green gardening. Earth Camp lessons motivate students and their families to practice environmentally-sound behaviors based on responsible and informed decisions. It promotes clean drinking water and beautiful creeks and lakes.



Earth Camp Activities



Teachers participate in a full day of training that includes classroom instruction and outdoor field experiences in order to prepare their students for Earth Camp.



Pesticides washing from lawns into creeks threaten water quality. Students identify bugs in the garden and learn water-safe ways to manage pests.



Students learn about the topography of a watershed, how our actions can add to water pollution, and that individual choices we make can contribute to a cleaner environment.

TEKS Requirements

Earth Camp provides a unique experience while at the same time meeting the requirements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Concept Strands listed below:

- Field and Laboratory Investigations: Environmentally-Appropriate and Ethical
- Scientific Inquiry: Field and Laboratory
- Use of Scientific Tools

Earth Camp Activities



City of Austin scientists and educators help Earth Camp students investigate water quality in local creeks as they wade in to find and identify bottom-dwelling insect larvae.



Students descend into a cave to understand how surface water travels on its journey underground into the Edwards Aquifer.



Students watch water emerge from the aquifer at Barton Springs before visiting the Splash! exhibit at Zilker Park.

TEKS Requirements

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- Past Events Affect Present and Future Events
- Systems: Collection of Cycles, Structures, Processes
- Natural World: Earth materials

Testimonials

"These field trips were the absolute finest experience I have had as an educator. The students were actively involved, and learned a ton of information."

"The water activities at Onion Creek were awesome! It made the kids feel like real biologists!"

"The enthusiastic and professional staff made the outdoor experience truly a memorable one."

"It taught us that we are responsible for the environment that we live in!" (-Kid's quote)

Major Contributors

**Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Parks and Recreation Department
McKinney Falls State Park
The Green Classroom**

Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Earth Camp is a City of Austin program, funded by the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, in partnership with the Austin Independent School District.



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www.austintexas.gov/earthcamp