



Beach Fest Coastal Expo

May 12th and May 13th
9am-2pm



Mission:

Increase student awareness of Texas coastal ecosystems, why they are important, and how people can protect them while having a fun time at the coast.

The following is a list of possible activities.

Crab Marsh

Touch and learn about fiddler crabs and hermit crabs at our crab-shaped pool. The crab marsh has sand and local marsh plants that create a “true” habitat for the visiting crabs. Children and adults will learn about where the crabs live, what the crabs eat, what eats the crab, the importance of marsh habitat, and why we should care about their habitat.



Colorado River’s Catch of the Day

Discover the incredible creatures caught up in a seine net. Examine our waters diversity of life up close. Go ahead and touch what was caught, or perhaps even hold it in your hands – if you dare!

Fish Rubbing Tables

Make a coastal fish, mammal, or invertebrate appear by rubbing a crayon on a piece of paper. The raised picture below the paper will appear and so will fun facts about your animal.

Fins, Fur and Feathers

Get close up and personal with some of our Texas coast animals as you discover their place in the food web, what habitat they call home and facts about their biology and behavior. The program’s presenter is a Gulf Coast Wildlife Rehabilitator who rescues, rehabilitates, and releases back into the wild a wide variety of animals.



Coastal Fisheries Touch Tanks

Sea a sea anemone or shrimp! Compare a blue crab and hermit crab! Coastal fisheries staff provides live coastal animals for you to touch, observe, and learn about.

Rock Wall

Get active and discover a new physical hobby as you test your skills on the rock wall!

Backyard Bass

Children and adults learn to cast Zebco-type rods and reels. The goal is to “catch” a plastic fish using a special weight that “hooks” the fish.



Junior Angler

Kids learn about what types of reels they can use, how to identify fish, fishing rules, regulations, and a whole lot more! Once they have completed all the hands-on activities, they become a Junior Angler!

Enviroscape



This interactive, hands-on activity demonstrates point and nonpoint sources of pollution and the effects of both on wetlands, estuaries, the ocean, and our beaches. Go ahead and make it rain on Texas and see what happens to the land and water.

Orienteering

Lost at sea? Stranded on a beach? What if you found a treasure map and wanted to find the hidden treasure? Well, get ready for some fun as you learn the fundamentals of a compass while acquiring interesting coastal and safety information.

Capital of Texas Zoo

Discover the incredible creatures that come from other countries. Explore what they eat, how they move, and other fun facts. Compare similarities and differences to the wildlife Texas has. Learn ways you can take responsibility for your own actions and protect wildlife.



Glass-bottom Stream

A V-shaped, glass trough is filled with water, rocks, and native aquatic plants to replicate the structure of a natural stream. The glass-bottom allows visitors to see the 3-D picture of a stream and how fish and invertebrates can “hide” from predators. The stream demonstrates the importance of habitat, and how aquatic insects act as water quality indicators. Ever wonder about the quality of your local stream? Now you will be able to tell just by looking at the insects!

Mystery Fish Kill Game

Become an honorary member of the Kills and Spills Team by solving the mysterious fish kill, just like a TPWD biologist! Real clues, pictures, and facts are used to help teach how fish kills can be caused by natural conditions and/or human contamination. The circumstances of the fish kill and the clues are used to communicate about the physical and biological characteristics of coastal ecosystems.

Beach Goodies

Ever wonder what washes up on the Texas coast? This is the place to see the marvels the ocean carries around the world. Touch, see, and learn about the shells, sea beans, feathers, plastics, and bones that have been found on your coastline.



Water Coursing Through History

This activity simulates changes in a watershed over time. You get to represent different water users and see how your water demands affect your community. Water is used by all members of a community and as water demands increase we need to conserve and manage our supplies.

Rafting

Learn the importance of personal water safety and how to enjoy the surrounding lakes and rivers. After a hands-on presentation, the participants will go for a short raft trip!

Discovery Boxes and Puzzles

Wooden boxes with coastal artifacts inside and an opening at one end encourage participants to identify the contents of the box by touch. It is a fun way to learn about the diversity of our coastal habitats and objects. Large scale puzzles depicting different Texas habitats. Test how fast you can put them together!

Fine-dining

Find out how so many different birds can live in a salt marsh (or wetlands) along with the importance of a salt marsh in this fun, interactive game that has students using different “beaks” to capture “food”.

En-tanglement

Fishing is fun but remember to recycle that fishing line! Discover what can happen to used fishing line that is not disposed of properly in a fun game that has students thinking about how their actions can affect birds, turtles and other wildlife.

Turtle Trek

Students pretend to be a turtle or a turtle threat in this action game. Students discover the perils of a sea turtles life and it’s important to protect them.

**For additional information or questions
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