

# SCHOOL PROGRAMS ONSITE: 4<sup>TH</sup> TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED:

MAX: 100 students max/program  
PROGRAM FEE (RESIDENT): \$6.00/person  
NON-RESIDENT: \$7/person  
MINIMUM FEE: \$90.00/program  
LENGTH: 2 hours in/outdoor  
LOCATION: ANSC or Outreach

### NOTES:

1 – Available as an outreach program  
2 - At Sheffield Ed. Center, Barton Springs  
MAP TO SEC AT BARTON SPRINGS  
3 – At Pease Park  
MAP TO PEASE PARK

## MENU OF PROGRAMS

Amphibians Abound <sup>2</sup>	Minerals, Rocks and Fossils <sup>3</sup>
Awesome Astronomy <sup>1</sup>	Splash Lab <sup>2</sup>
Animal Adaptations <sup>1</sup>	Texas Endangered Animals <sup>1,2</sup>
Birds of Prey	
Eco Explorers	Program Registration Form



### AMPHIBIANS ABOUND

As one of the most rapidly disappearing animal groups, their unique lifestyle and anatomy acts as an indication of global health. Students investigate the significance of their decline. Explore a riparian zone to understand its importance for amphibians in Central Texas. Meet the endangered Barton Springs salamander and visit Eliza Springs, considered the principal range of this incredibly rare species. Students evaluate metamorphosis and debate advantages and disadvantages of unique traits such as a larval stage, neotony, porous skin, and gelatinous eggs. **This program is limited to 50 participants per program.**

TEKS 4: 9a, b and 10a, c;                    5: 9a, b, c and 10a, c

[To Top](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Program Registration](#)



## AWESOME ASTRONOMY

Explore the wonders of the night sky inside our inflatable planetarium, StarLab. Each night the moon appears in the sky looking a little different. After investigating the moon's phases, predict the moon's appearance tomorrow night. Identify patterns in the night sky that have guided people throughout history and still guide astronomers today. Walk from the sun through the inner planets, through the asteroid belt, to where the outer planets begin without leaving ANSC. Compare the size, mass and temperature of planets, moons and other celestial bodies in a game that models the solar system. Explore the life cycles of stars and discover where our sun is in its cycle.

TEKS 4: 8c;            5: 8c, d

---

[To Top](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Program Registration](#) | [Outreach Registration](#)



## ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

Touch a turtle, stroke a snake, pet a rabbit, feel a ferret while observing similarities and differences between groups of animals. Watch animal behavior in the classroom and differentiate between inherited traits and learned behaviors. Examine furs, feathers, scales, skulls, and bones to discover ways animals have adapted to increase their chances of survival. Take a guided tour of our sanctuary for injured wildlife and hear the stories of our residents.

TEKS 4: 9a, b and 10a, b, c;            5: 9a, b, c and 10a, b,  
c

---

[To Top](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Program Registration](#) | [Outreach Registration](#)



## BIRDS OF PREY

Meet a live screech owl in the classroom and explore the characteristics that make them effective nighttime predators. Discuss how birds of prey may be affected by changes in their environment. Explore the reasons that laws protect birds of prey. Teams of students research and present findings to the class on a diurnal bird of prey. Interpret patterns to construct reasonable explanations of flight patterns of birds. Tour ANSC's Birds of Prey sanctuary to observe wild raptors and other birds.

TEKS 4: 9a, b and 10a, c;                    5: 9a, b, c and 10a, c

[To Top](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Program Registration](#)

---



## ECO EXPLORERS

The Zilker Nature Preserve is located on the Balcones Fault Zone where multiple ecosystems come together. Safely gather data in the wetlands, meadow and urban ecosystems and discover the interdependence of animals, plants, water and soil in the Preserve. Explore how adaptations enable some organisms to survive in the Zilker Preserve. Identify examples of erosion and deposition and weathering. Discuss the impact of removing an essential element from an ecosystem. Describe the flow of energy through food webs and predict the consequences of removing an element of a food chain. Dress for the weather and wear shoes appropriate for hiking.

TEKS 4: 9a, b and 10a, c;                    5: 9a, b, c and 10a, c

[To Top](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Program Registration](#)

---





## MINERALS, ROCKS AND FOSSILS

Float a rock, smell a mineral and find fossils in Shoal Creek. This outdoor exploration of Austin's unique geology offers students hands-on activities while they use tools to test properties of soils, rocks and minerals. Examine minerals and rocks for properties including magnetism, hardness, smell and buoyancy. Safely examine sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rock and learn some of their uses in today's world. Discover changes in soils and rocks due to heating and cooling while playing the Rock Cycle Game. Interpret patterns in rocks to identify fossils. Discuss the limitations of fossil information and determine the most abundant fossil from the Cretaceous period. Student paleontologists and geologists collect a fossil or rock to take back to school. Identify changes in a creek bank caused by erosion, deposition and weathering. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate shoes for hiking.

TEKS 4: 7a, b, c;                    5: 7a, d

[To Top](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Program Registration](#)

---



## SPLASH LAB

Wear your water shoes as we wade into Lower Barton Creek to collect aquatic critters and predict water quality in this urban waterway. Safely observe collected critters under a microscope to identify and classify aquatic invertebrates. Explore the "Splash" exhibit to see the endangered Barton Springs Salamander and to learn the geologic history of Barton Springs.. Play a game to understand the complexities of the water cycle. Explore the adaptations and life cycles of aquatic organisms. **This program is limited to 50 participants per program.** Wear appropriate shoes for wading into Barton Creek.

TEKS 4: 9a, b and 10a, c;                    5: 9a, b, c and 10a, c

[To Top](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Program Registration](#)

---



## TEXAS ENDANGERED ANIMALS

When you think of endangered species, you might evoke images of Asian elephants, jaguars, giant pandas, and animals far away, but there are animals in danger of extinction in our own backyard. Evaluate what choices you can make to help protect the species of Central Texas and their habitat. Explore reasons why wildlife might not be able to survive in its current environment and model solutions to problems like human impact, loss of habitat, disease, and reduced ability to find food. Investigate how animals occupy ecological niches, the interdependence of living organisms, and the significance of extinction. Describe physical and learned adaptations enable survival and explore reasons why wildlife might not be able to survive in its current environment. Students analyze and conduct reasonable explanations for wildlife survival and interpret how each individual can make a positive difference in our ecosystem. Program highlights the Barton Springs Salamander and the interplay of species and their survival in an urban environment.

TEKS 4: 9a, b and 10a, c;

5: 9a, b, c and 10a, c

[To Top](#) | [Trip Planner](#) | [Program Registration](#) | [Outreach Registration](#)

---

