ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
2019-2020

Thank you for your interest in booking an academic program with Trinity River Audubon Center.

The Center is your gateway to exploring the amazing resources of the 6,000-acre Great Trinity Forest. As the largest urban hardwood forest in the United States, this forest supports a diverse community of plant and animal species and contains a unique mixture of bottomland hardwoods, wetlands, and grasslands. A part of the City of Dallas-Trinity River Corridor Project, the center's 120 acres sit on a former illegal dump site that is now a reclaimed haven for a vast array of birds and other wildlife in an increasingly urbanized metropolitan area.

Located just ten miles south of downtown Dallas, we typically see students from schools located in Dallas, Carrollton, Forney, Allen, Grand Prairie, Garland, Mesquite, Highland Park, DeSoto, Arlington, Midlothian, Waxahachie, Lewisville, Irving, Garland, Richardson, Fort Worth, and other surrounding cities.

We offer a variety of programs at our center, on your campus, and at third-party facilities. Many of our programs utilize our live education animals, including turtles, snakes, and lizards.

Please feel free to reach out to our staff with questions. Request a booking for your next program online at https://trinityriver.audubon.org/academicprogramrequest.
# Academic Programs 2019-2020

Book Programs at [https://trinityriver.audubon.org/academicprogramrequest](https://trinityriver.audubon.org/academicprogramrequest)

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eco Investigations</td>
<td>Expedition field trips led by Audubon educational staff/volunteers and <a href="http://www.tmn.org">Texas Master Naturalist</a> educators, designed to strengthen critical thinking skills across multiple disciplines and incorporate hands-on, inquiry-based learning strategies linked with state-mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills objectives for grades K - 5. Students fortify their scientific observation and identification skills and gain knowledge to become a steward of our natural resources. Students will explore the three main ecosystems of the Trinity River Audubon Center: the Bottomland Hardwood Forest, the Blackland Prairie, and the Trinity River. Students in Grades K-3 use their senses to discover the world around them, meet an animal up close, and learn about the pond ecosystem. Grades 4-5 use the scientific method to determine water quality based on macro-invertebrates found in our pond and study animal adaptations unique to North Texas wildlife. All programs are engaging, hands-on, and most include both indoor and outdoor components. Special program customization is available to address specific student expectations and/or benchmarks at an additional cost.</td>
<td>Grades K-5</td>
<td>Trinity River Audubon Center</td>
<td>$8.25/student Chaperones at no cost up to 1:7 ratio. We require chaperones at a 1:10 ratio. $206.25 minimum (equivalent to 25 students) 150 student maximum for 1st-5th 100 student maximum for kindergarten</td>
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<td>Nature Tots</td>
<td>In this 1.5 hour program specifically designed for Preschool and Kindergarten students, Audubon educators lead students on an adventure through nature. This program is aligned to the state’s guidelines for Preschool education and Kindergarten TEKS. Nature Tots features a nature-themed story, live animal encounter and a nature walk in which students use their senses to engage with the world around them.</td>
<td>Pre-K &amp; Kindergarten</td>
<td>Trinity River Audubon Center</td>
<td>$6.00/student&lt;br&gt;$90.00 minimum (equivalent to 15 students)&lt;br&gt;Chaperones are at no cost up to 1:5 ratio.&lt;br&gt;We require chaperones at a 1:7 ratio.&lt;br&gt;75 student maximum (inquire for possibilities with more than 75 students)</td>
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<td>Self-Guided Field Trip</td>
<td>Explore the Center at your own pace. A limited number of backpacks, complete with field guides, hand lenses, and other scientific tools to help you explore, are available for check-out at the front desk. These backpacks are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, or may be reserved in advance. Additionally, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our newest program offered in partnership with the talkSTEM organization. <strong>walkSTEM@TRAC</strong> is a unique and fun customized experience that will soon be launching at TRAC. Although we often don't realize it, math is all around us. This year-round, self-guided experience is designed to engage students with the math found in nature through a series of stops along our trails. At each stop, students will be asked to think critically about a math topic and how they see it manifested in nature. Most of the stops include step-by-step math problems for the students to complete.</td>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>Trinity River Audubon Center</td>
<td>$4.00/student Chaperones are at no cost up to 1:7 ratio.</td>
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<td>Animal Encounter</td>
<td>Don't miss out on this live animal opportunity with one or more of our educational ambassadors including turtles and snails! Students will:   - Identify and learn animal adaptations and how their physical traits and behaviors enable the animal to survive in their environment.   - Touch and observe live animals and other animal-related objects.   - Participate in an age-appropriate activity to deepen their appreciation for wildlife. Discounts may apply if a Guided Hike is booked in addition to an Animal Encounter.</td>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>Trinity River Audubon Center</td>
<td>$130.00 for 15-30 people $95.00 for Up to 14 people Prices include admission to the center. 1 free chaperone will be granted for each program session. Any additional chaperones up to 5 adults per session will be charged $6.00 per person.</td>
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| Guided Hike    | Join one of our naturalists or educators on an interpretive hike of our Blackland Prairie, Bottomland Hardwood Forest, and Trinity River Overlook. Trail Distance: approx. 1 mile round trip Difficulty: Easy  
This stroller-friendly trail gets you up-close and personal with some of the features which make this place special. Experience busy pollinators tending to our native plants while watching Great Egrets hunt for food in our ponds. Listen for songbirds as they flit from tree to tree. Get to know your vines: the thorny thin Greenbrier, the thick woody Grapevine, the rootlet-covered Poison Ivy, and the palmate-leafed Virginia Creeper as they each provide crucial cover for our wildlife.  
Guided hikes may not cover the entire trail. Hike distance is based on group interests along the trail.  
No flash photography allowed on hikes as it disturbs wildlife.  
Discounts may apply if an Animal Encounter is booked in addition to a Guided Hike.                                                                 | All ages     | Trinity River Audubon Center | $120.00 for 15-25 people  
$85.00 for up to 14 people  
Prices include admission to the center.  
1 free chaperone will be granted for each program session. Any additional chaperones up to 5 adults per session will be charged $6.00 per person. |
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| Birding 101 Outreach | Get outside and take a hike in your schoolyard and explore the birds living in our metroplex! The program will begin in your classroom, learning about bird adaptations. Students will then head outside to learn how to use binoculars and tips to identify the birds they see and hear in the city. Students will receive a Trinity River Audubon Center Bird Journal to track their observations and continue using as they add new birds to their life lists. | Grades K-2   | Your Campus      | • $200 for 1st program  
• $100 for each additional program (up to 4) the same day  
Max 40 students & 5 chaperones per program  
Minimum of 3 chaperones required                                                      |
| Aquatic Lab Outreach | Explore the pond in your classroom! In this 45-minute program, Audubon educators take samples of our pond life to your classroom. Students will explore the water and identify macro-invertebrates and other pond life. For a truly investigative experience, book multiple programs throughout the school year to see how life changes with the seasons and explore the life cycles of invertebrates. | Grades 3-8   | Your Campus      | • $250 for 1st program  
• $100 for each additional program (up to 4) the same day  
Max 40 students & 5 chaperones per program  
Minimum of 3 chaperones required                                                      |
| Audubon Conservation Treks | Please contact trac@audubon.org with inquiries.                                                                                                                                                              | High School  | Various locations throughout Texas | Free for Title 1 Students                                                              |
IF USING A BIG THOUGHT VOUCHER FOR YOUR PROGRAM, REFER TO THE NEXT PAGE.

All cancellations, headcount changes, modifications, and date change requests must be submitted in writing to trac@audubon.org.

- With the exception of certain school districts that do not allow for pre-payment of programs, payment is due in full prior to services being rendered, up to the morning of the program (unless otherwise stated on your invoice). An invoice will be sent with your booking confirmation. If your district/school does not permit pre-payment, you must contact us for payment arrangements.
- Failure to timely submit payment without prior arrangements may result in cancellation of your program by Audubon. If your group arrives for the program and payment has not been received, or is not provided upon arrival, Audubon reserves the right to deny services. However, payment will remain due in full under the cancellation policy.
- Cancellations are accepted when sent in writing to trac@audubon.org no less than 14 days prior to your program date. If a cancellation request is received less than 14 days prior to the program date, or if students fail to appear the date of the program, full payment for the program will be due no later than the originally scheduled date of the program.
- Date changes can be made once per booking if requested at least 14 days prior to the program date. If we are unable to agree on a substitute date, or if the date change request is received within the 14 days prior to the program date, the cancellation policy above applies. Date changes cannot be used to avoid a cancellation fee.
  - Any subsequent date change requests, after the first, will require payment of an additional $100 administrative fee per change.
- Modifications to headcount must be submitted to trac@audubon.org. We reserve the right to deny a request to increase headcount based on staffing. When an increase to student headcount is permitted less than 14 days prior to the program date, or if students in excess of the headcount are present the day of the program, the extra students will be charged at double the per student rate and are not guaranteed supplies and equipment for the day’s activities.
- Students and chaperones will be divided into the appropriate number of groups upon arrival. Group size will be based on actual student attendance and Audubon educator availability.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Trinity River Audubon Center follows the Dallas Independent School District inclement weather closings and delays. Programs are considered cancelled in the event of an inclement weather closing or delay by Dallas Independent School District, or a closing or delay by the district booking the program.

- Never assume that your program has been cancelled.
- We hold our programs rain or shine, and we cancel only when conditions are unsafe for travel. Students and chaperones should always come prepared for the possibility of spending time outdoors. If a rainy day suddenly becomes sunny, we may take advantage of the break in the weather.
  - If you have booked a Guided Hike, we will attempt to communicate with the primary contact as soon as possible if the weather forecast requires that we consider cancelling or postponing the program.
- If Audubon chooses to cancel a scheduled program, we will attempt to reschedule. If we are unable to coordinate another date, a full refund will be issued. We will call the phone number for the primary contact as soon as possible.
POLICIES FOR ALL PROGRAMS USING BIG THOUGHT LEARNING PARTNERS VOUCHERS

All cancellations, headcount changes, modifications and date change requests must be submitted in writing to trac@audubon.org.

- In order to book a program with a Big Thought voucher, your request must include the Voucher Number and Approval Code. Both of these are obtained from Big Thought.
- If payment is not paid in full by your voucher, the balance being paid prior to services being rendered, up to the morning of the program. An invoice will be sent with your booking confirmation. If your school/district does not permit pre-payment, you must contact us for payment arrangements.
- Cancellations are accepted when sent in writing to trac@audubon.org no less than 14 days prior to your program date. If a cancellation request is received less than 14 days prior to the program date, or if students fail to appear the date of the program, full payment for the program will be due and an invoice will be sent to Big Thought (and to the school if the school is responsible for a portion of the invoice). Any portion of the invoice not paid by Big Thought will be the responsibility of the school booking the program.
- Date changes can be made once per booking if requested at least 14 days prior to the program date. If we are unable to agree on a substitute date, or if the date change request is received within the 14 days prior to the program date, the cancellation policy above applies. Date changes cannot be used to avoid a cancellation fee.
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- Students and chaperones will be divided into the appropriate number of groups upon arrival. Group size will be based on actual student attendance and Audubon educator availability.

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