



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS 2023-2024

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 dumpsite 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>.

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	LOCATION OPTIONS	PRICING & OTHER INFO
<p>Eco Investigations Onsite</p> <p>Our signature 3-hour TEKS-aligned program</p> <p>This program begins either 9am or 10am.</p>	<p>Expedition field trips led by Audubon education staff/volunteers and Texas Master Naturalist 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 1-8. Students fortify their scientific observation and identification skills and gain knowledge to become a steward of our natural resources.</p> <p>Students will explore the three main ecosystems of the Trinity River Audubon Center: the Bottomland Hardwood Forest, the Blackland Prairie, and the Trinity River. Each field trip includes a nature hike and the teacher’s choice of two other programs. Available programs include animal encounter, aquatic investigation, insect investigation, and prairie workshop and are contingent on the grade level and desired TEKS instruction.</p> <p>Special program customization to address specific student expectations and/or benchmarks is available at an additional cost.</p>	<p>Grades 2-8</p>	<p>Trinity River Audubon Center</p>	<p>\$9.00/student</p> <p>Chaperones at no cost up to 1:7 ratio.</p> <p>We require chaperones at a 1:10 ratio.</p> <p>\$225.00 minimum (equivalent to 25 students)</p> <p>75 student maximum</p>

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	LOCATION OPTIONS	PRICING & OTHER INFO
<p>Eco Investigations Virtual</p> <p>Our signature program – virtually!</p> <p>This program runs 1 hour.</p>	<p>Take your students on a virtual excursion to learn about our natural world. Our 45 minute – 1 hour virtual field trip will include TEKS instruction to complement your curriculum.</p> <p>Students will virtually explore the three main ecosystems of the Trinity River Audubon Center: the Bottomland Hardwood Forest, the Blackland Prairie, and the Trinity River. You may also choose an animal encounter or pond sample activity. During the animal encounter, students virtually meet an animal. During the pond activity, students learn about the pond ecosystem.</p> <p>Special program customization is available to address specific student expectations and/or benchmarks is available at an additional cost.</p>	<p>Grades 2-8</p>	<p>Virtual</p>	<p>\$150 per session</p>

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	LOCATION OPTIONS	PRICING & OTHER INFO
<p>Bird Ecology Basics</p> <p>2.5 hour program designed for High School students</p> <p>Students will learn the ecological niche of various bird species and how they have adapted to thrive in their environments.</p>	<p>Hit the trails with Audubon educators and volunteers to explore the world of birds! In this 2.5 hour program, students will enjoy a field study to further understand birds as indicator species and their roles in their associated ecosystems.</p> <p>Program consists of a bird walk and habitat study which will emphasize the importance of native plant communities for birds and their interaction with other organisms.</p>	<p>High School</p>	<p>Trinity River Audubon Center</p>	<p>\$9.00/student</p> <p>Chaperones at no cost up to 1:10 ratio.</p> <p>We require chaperones at a 1:10 ratio.</p> <p>\$225.00 minimum (equivalent to 25 students)</p> <p>50 student maximum</p>

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	LOCATION OPTIONS	PRICING & OTHER INFO
<p>Lil' Naturalists Onsite</p> <p>An exploratory field trip for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students.</p>	<p>In this 1 ½-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.</p>	<p>Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade</p>	<p>Trinity River Audubon Center</p>	<p>\$8.00/student</p> <p>\$120.00 minimum (equivalent to 15 students)</p> <p>Chaperones are at no cost up to 1:5 ratio.</p> <p>We require chaperones at a 1:7 ratio.</p> <p>75 student maximum</p>
<p>Lil' Naturalists Virtual</p> <p>An exploratory virtual program Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students.</p>	<p>Join our Audubon Educators on an adventure through nature, virtually!</p> <p>In this 30 minute program, Pre-K and Kindergarten students will enjoy a story, read by our educators, that focuses on Trinity River Audubon Center plants and animals, their habitats (or "homes"), and what they need to survive in the wild. After the story, students will virtually meet one of our very own Three-toed Box Turtles!</p>	<p>Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade</p>	<p>Virtual</p>	<p>\$150 per session</p>

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Audubon | Trinity River Audubon Center
 6500 Great Trinity Forest Way Dallas, TX 75217
 (214) 309-5801

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	LOCATION OPTIONS	PRICING & OTHER INFO
<p>Self-Guided Field Trip</p> <p>May be scheduled to take place anytime during regular business hours.</p>	<p>Explore the Center at your own pace! Our Audubon Educators will provide an introduction about our Center, our ecoregion, and what to expect while you're exploring. Bird, insect, plant, reptile/amphibian field guides are available for teachers/educators to borrow in order to help with instruction on the trails.</p>	<p>All ages</p>	<p>Trinity River Audubon Center</p>	<p>\$5.00/student</p> <p>Chaperones are at no cost up to 1:7 ratio.</p>

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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	LOCATION OPTIONS	PRICING & OTHER INFO
<p>Service Learning</p>	<p>Service Learning is an educational approach that combines learning objectives with community service in order to meet societal needs and enhance professional experience. Our Service Learning program is designed for High School and College students, allowing individuals to positively impact environmental issues while obtaining knowledge and experience in the conservation field. Our program serves as a natural complement to the teacher’s curriculum. By participating in our Service Learning program, students have an opportunity to restore a portion of our native landscape. Students will play a vital role in prairie restoration through invasive species removal, plant propagation, and native grass and forb planting. At the same time, students will further their knowledge of ecology and ecosystem functions.</p> <p>To learn more about what we offer and to schedule your Service Learning opportunity, contact Jake Poinsett at Jake.Poinsett@audubon.org or 214.309.5850.</p>	<p>High School and College</p>	<p>Trinity River Audubon Center</p>	

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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.

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POLICIES FOR ALL PROGRAMS USING BIG THOUGHT LEARNING PARTNERS VOUCHERS

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- **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.*
 - *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. Any portion of the fees due based on this policy that are not paid by Big Thought will be the responsibility of the school booking the program and will be due immediately.
- 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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