Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve
& LEARNING CENTER
CORPUS CHRISTI • TEXAS

FIELD TRIP PROGRAMMING GUIDE

The Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve and Learning Center is a 162 acre nature preserve run by the City of Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation Department. We are dedicated to sharing the importance of safeguarding the natural resources of our South Texas coastal ecosystems. We invite families, students, and nature lovers alike to join us in our educational programs, events, or explore the trails on your own.

Our Mission is to enhance community understanding for the need to preserve the natural resources of coastal ecosystems for future generations through access and education.

SORTING & BASIC CLASSIFICATION
(PK- 1st Grade)

Science TEKS: PK VI.A.1, VI.B.1, 112.11.b) 2 (A)(D)(E), 112.11.b) 10 (A), 112.12.b) 10(C)
ELA TEKS: 110.11.b) 5 (C), 110.11.b) 10 (B), 110.11.b) 16(A)iii, 110.11.b) 21(B), 110.12.b) 6(D)

This program will allow students to practice sorting items into different classifications based on their properties. Students will have a chance to interact with natural items such as rocks and shells, and to explore the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve. Students will get an age-appropriate introduction into classifying organisms. This program will include a tour through the property to practice sorting skills and may also include a game, indoor sorting activity, or other lab activity that demonstrates basic classification.

ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS
(2nd- 4th Grade)

Science TEKS: 112.13.b) 2 (A), 112.13.b) 3 (B), 112.13.b) 10 (A), 112.14.b) 2 (F),
112.14.b) 10 (A)(B), 112.15.b) 10 (A)
ELA TEKS: 110.13.b) 27, 110.14.b) 20 (A), 110.15.b) 2 (A)
Math TEKS: 111.4.b) 10 (A)(B)(D)

This program will introduce students to basic inherited characteristics that help organisms survive in their habitat. Students will interact with replica skulls of local birds, and discuss their different feeding behaviors. Students will play a game that introduces camouflage, feeding behaviors, and other adaptations. Students will also practice creating bar graphs to determine which animals survive. This program will be include a bird walk through the property with a chance to use binoculars to observe birds living at the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve.

PLANT ADAPTATIONS
(3rd- 5th Grade)

Science TEKS: 112.15.b) (A), 112.14.b) 10 (A), 112.16.b) 9 (D), 112.16.b) (B)
Math TEKS: 111.5.b) 4 (A)(B), 111.6.b) 4 (A), 111.7.b) 3 (K)

This plant-themed program will allow students to practice their sketching and description skills. Students will look at the plants that characterize our upland, prairie and wetland ecosystems and learn about the features that help them live there. This program will also include a laboratory portion that may include looking at plants and seeds under a microscope, using a triple-beam balance, and observing transpiration in leaves.

NEEDS OF ORGANISMS & CARRYING CAPACITY
(5th- 8th Grades)

Science TEKS: 112.16.b) 9 (A)(B)(C), 112.18.b) 12 (E),(F), 112.20.b) 11 (B)
Math TEKS: 111.26.b) 3 (D), 111.26.b) 6 C

Students will conduct a population survey of animals and/or plants that reside at the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve. Discussions will led about carrying capacity and limiting factors to populations. Students will play carrying capacity games and graph the results to discuss different survival strategies.

ANIMAL RESEARCH WALK
(6th Grade)

ELA TEKS: 110.18.b) 2 (E),110.18.b) 12 (A),(B), 110.18.b) 22 (A),(B)
Science TEKS: 112.18.c) 12 C

Students will begin in the multipurpose room with an introduction to Latin prefixes and suffixes that are usually present in binomial nomenclature. Students will then be assigned an animal to research in small groups using the preserve's library of resources including websites, field guides, and other research material. The activity will conclude with a walk to look for the habitats of the studied animals, and students will present their knowledge to the rest of the group.

MIGRATION
(7th Grade)

Science TEKS: 112.19.b) 11 (A),(B)
Social Studies TEKS: 113.19.b) 9

This program will give students an introduction to migration patterns of birds and butterflies that come through the Corpus Christi area. Students will get a chance to explore the ecosystems of the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve for migratory species and learn to identify birds and insects using keys and field guides. Students will also use maps to look at migration routes and discuss landforms that limit migration.

TRANSECTS
(Aquatic Science, Biology, Environmental Science)

Science TEKS: 112.32.c) 9 (A), 112.32.c) 10, 112.34.c) 11 (D), 112.34.C) 12 (B), 112.37.c) 2 (G), 112.37.c) 4 (A) 112.37.c) 9 (E)

Students will use square meter transect quadrats to sample and compare different areas of the wetlands preserve. Aquatic Science transects will focus on freshwater pothole wetlands, brackish areas within the property, and saltwater areas near the bay. Environmental Systems transects will focus on areas that previously were used as recreation sites (all-terrain, hiking areas) and include new restoration sites. Biology teachers may choose between the aquatic science or environmental science transect areas.

BIRDING
(6th- 12th Grade)

Let the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve teach your class about what is so special about the Coastal Bend when it comes to birds! Students will learn to use tools such as binoculars and field guides as they tour the grounds learning how to identify these diverse groups of animals at our site. This program will get your students outside and is sure to open their eyes to the unique role of South Texas in bird migration through hands-on activities.

NATURAL HISTORY TOURS
(5th-12th Grade)

During this program students will learn the use of field equipment, such as binoculars, field guides and check lists. On a guided tour of our grounds, students will learn about native plants, wildlife and the history of our site. A great introduction to the diversity found in our native habitat oasis. A short introductory lesson of field safety is included.

TEXAS AQUATIC SCIENCE: FIELD TRIP TO A WETLAND
(9th-12th Grade)

Follow through the activities from the Texas Aquatic Curriculum Guide (http://texasaquaticscience.org/) for Chapter 10's Field Trip to a Wetland. This trip will allow an opportunity for soil testing, macro invertebrate sampling, an examination of plant adaptations, and water quality indicators.

Field trips to the Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve serve students from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. The field trip learning spaces can be reserved for a group for morning or afternoon sessions Tuesday through Friday. Trips will last 1-3 hours depending on the needs of the group. Field trip groups must have a minimum of 10 students.

# of Students	Cost	Program Length
10-25 students	$75	1 hour
26-50 students	$150	2 hours
51-75 students	$225	3 hours

Teachers will select the age appropriate topic from the list below to cover during their visit. Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve staff will choose appropriate activities from the topic description to meet the needs of the group. Weather permitting each trip will include a field exploration activity. A schedule of activities will be sent to the school 2 weeks prior to the field trip.

For more information contact:
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361-826-3432

For information on other educational and recreational programs please visit:

www.osopreserve.com

Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve & Learning Center
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Corpus Christi, TX 78414
361-826-3947

Building Hours:
M-F 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sat. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Program Manager - Manuel Cantu ManuelC2@cctexas.com
Recreation Coordinator - Lauren Piorkowski LaurenP@cctexas.com

COME TAKE AN ADVENTURE WITH US!

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