My TWA Experience

Article by ELANOR DEAN

Each year TWA’s Conservation Legacy team educates more than 500,000 students across Texas about wildlife, conservation and land stewardship. This semester we wanted to see our educational programs from the students’ perspectives.

Grade K-8 students who participated in a Conservation Legacy program in the spring 2019 school semester were invited to participate in the My TWA Experience contest. After engaging in a Wildlife by Design classroom presentation, L.A.N.D.S. Intensive Lesson, or using a Discovery Trunk the student was asked to share their experience through visual art, writing or photography.

Entries were split into the following grade level groups: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. We received many wonderful entries.

Here is Conservation Legacy from the student perspective….

ARTWORK WINNERS
Students were asked to draw a picture of something they saw or were inspired by during their TWA experience. The 2nd and 5th grade winners participated in a Skins & Skulls Wildlife by Design program and the 7th grade winner participated in a L.A.N.D.S. Intensive quail necropsy. Winners of the artwork contest are:

Faith P., 2nd Grade
Kaylee R., 5th Grade
Caiden C., 7th Grade

PHOTOGRAPHY WINNER
For the photography contest, students were asked to take a photo during the program to showcase the lesson from their individual perspective. The photography winner, 7th grader Lydia P., took this photo during a L.A.N.D.S. Intensive quail necropsy.

WRITING WINNERS
The writing contest challenged students to write a few sentences about what they learned from the program or any actions the program inspired them to take. The 2nd and 5th grade winners participated in a Skins & Skulls Wildlife by Design program and the 7th grade winner participated in a L.A.N.D.S. Intensive quail necropsy. Here are the winning entries:

I learned that all animals are herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. I also learned that being a steward is protecting land, air, water and food. And I learned that natural resources are used to make human-made resources that we use equally.
~Aayush U., 2nd Grade

While Mrs. Gwen was at McClendon Elementary, I learned many beneficial things and lessons on how to keep our...
earthly world and organisms clean and safe. One extraordinary lecture (lesson) that sparked my mind was the way that animals are established and progressed from birth. I was fond of learning about the placement of an organism’s eyes. The eyes on the side means that this organism hides, and eyes on the front means that this organism hunts for prey (food). This presentation really changed my behavior toward this world, and I would like to say thank you to Mrs. Gwen.

~Madison B., 5th Grade

My experience with the Bobwhite quail was interesting because I got to learn some stuff about the bird that I never knew about. I got to learn that the Bobwhite quail has two stomachs and we only have one. When the Bobwhite quail is young, it eats more insects than seeds, but when it is grown up, it eats more seeds than insects. I had a great time learning about the Bobwhite quail.

~Valerie I., 7th Grade

We are grateful for the teachers who incorporate TWA into their lessons and their students who submitted entries for the My TWA Experience contest. It is wonderful to see how Conservation Legacy programs have impacted these students and inspired them to become stewards within their own communities.