

Teacher Workshops Create Classroom Stewards

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Photo courtesy of CONSERVATION LEGACY



During the summer months, the Learning Across New Dimensions in Science (L.A.N.D.S.) Educators offer teacher workshops in specific areas. Workshops are six-hour hands-on trainings that provide attendees with in-class and outdoor lessons and activities.

Lessons focus on land stewardship, native wildlife and water conservation and are Science TEKS-aligned for Grades K-8. In 2018, due to popularity, a second agenda was offered allowing teachers to come back for a brand new workshop and selection of lessons.

Each teacher workshop agenda incorporates aspects from all L.A.N.D.S. Outreach programs. First, teachers



act as the students, participating in a Wildlife by Design classroom presentation. Next, they view an On-demand Webinar complete with follow-along worksheet and interactive questions. Teachers then take part in several lessons from Discovery Trunks and *Stewarding Texas – A Scientific Exploration*.

After the mid-day lunch break, teachers are introduced to other aspects of the Texas Wildlife Association including membership, the Texas Youth Hunting Program, Texas Big Game Awards and Texas Brigades summer camps. The afternoon is filled with another Wildlife by Design activity, On-demand Webinar and more lessons from Discovery Trunks and *Stewarding Texas*.



Upon completion of the workshop, teachers receive Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit hours, along with access to the entire workshop curriculum via Google Drive. The goal is for each attending teacher to incorporate the L.A.N.D.S. Outreach lessons and activities into their classrooms during the school year and provide TWA with feedback and evaluations of those lessons. In order to receive the CPE certificate, teachers must complete an online evaluation. Here are some quotes from attendees:

In response to “Which part of the workshop was most helpful to you and/or what did you like most?” we received the following replies:

“Gaining more awareness about nature around me and the education I received about being a steward of our land and water helped me feel more responsible personally. I found the hands-on nature of the lessons to be an excellent resource as a teacher.”

“The hands-on activities are top on my list because they are so engaging and purposeful. I was impressed by how inexpensive everyday items were used which made these lessons doable. The background notes were very helpful and easy to follow along. The webinar lessons were interesting and easy for the students to understand. I like that there are worksheets for the student to follow along.”

“I always enjoy the fact that every time we meet for these workshops, I get to learn so many new things, and I always take this back to the classroom for the following year. I enjoy that we are able to do group work, and the lessons that you all offer have so much insight for us teachers to give to our students. THANK YOU so much for all that you are doing to help us, teachers, to enhance our knowledge and expertise to be able to release this to our students.”

“I really liked the hands-on lessons that we did and the discussions that were involved with them. We were able to take part in the lessons like we were students, but then we talked about how we could modify them and use them in our respective grade level.”

In the additional comments section we received the following replies:

“Thank you so much for offering all these resources to teachers. I really appreciated how the TWA highlights land stewardship, and I look forward to using these resources to help my students learn about this important topic.”

“Finally an educational resource that actually knows the science behind it not just some education speak. These two definitely knew their stuff. Very informational.”

“Thank you for the workshop! It inspired me and gave me new ideas and resources on how to teach science and engage my students. I am excited to take advantage of the materials provided and ideas presented!”

“I love coming back every year. This is my second time back, and I really appreciate the passion in the instructors as well as changing the lessons up each time! It flowed very nicely, and we were all very engaged in the lessons.” 🌟

