

# Investing In Today's Youth

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*The history of a nation will inevitably be written by the way in which it cares for its soil. ~President Theodore Roosevelt*

The implications of President Roosevelt's words are obvious in regards to the conservation of natural resources. Yes, considering those wise words through an educator's eyes reveals new meaning.

In a world where its citizens offer a variety of intellectual natural resources, our youths' potential is like soil. If taken for granted and left repeatedly uncared for, soil will not be able to produce the nutrition we need to survive. Likewise, if we do not place a priority on youth education, our world will not be able to produce the creative, thoughtful minds needed to sustain the next generation of conscientious citizens and leaders.

*"Thank you for taking us to the Trinity River for our field trip. You spent your money on equipment for us. You could have done anything else, but you volunteered to teach fourth graders."  
~Austen 4th grade.*





*"Thank you for all the fun we had, I enjoyed everything. I enjoyed learning about the quail crop, how deltas and canyons are formed, the 'song of the water cycle' bracelet and talking about what we hear in the wild. Thank you for showing us and helping us understand."*  
 ~Leilani 4th grade

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Investing in today's youth and tomorrow's leaders is one of the Texas Wildlife Association's top priorities. We believe a key action in creating mindful leaders is providing young people with opportunities to develop understanding and passion for native environments.

Last year, TWA invested (time, effort, funding) in hundreds of thousands of young minds through its numerous outdoor education programs and partnerships such as the L.A.N.D.S. Outreach and Intensive Programs, Trinity River Project, Texas Youth Hunting Program and Texas Brigades camps. As students capture and identify aquatic

macroinvertebrates or responsibly harvest their first deer, a transformation becomes rapidly apparent through obvious physical excitement paired with mental engagement. These visible signals of changing perspectives continually validate TWA's mission and fuel our passions.

If you are interested in being a part of these pivotal programmatic interactions and want to help continue and enhance our collective investment in the next generation of stewards and leaders, there are numerous avenues for your participation.

For more information, please contact Dr. Lisa Flowers, TWA Director of Programs at [lflowers@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:lflowers@texas-wildlife.org). Thank you! 🌱



*"Thank you so much for taking time from your day to help us learn science. Now I will protect all the rivers big and small. I will make sure the river is always healthy and not polluted."* ~Colton 4th grade

