25 Years of Texas Brigades

Article by NATALIE WOLFF

Texas Brigades is a non-profit organization striving to educate and empower youth with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries and land stewardship. It also promotes conservation ambassadorship for a sustained natural resource legacy.

More than 25 years ago, Dr. Dale Rollins, an optimistic wildlife specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, envisioned a way to expand educational efforts by developing wildlife ambassadors. His vision came to life in 1993 with the formation of the Bobwhite Brigade, prompting the development of a strong suite of similar programs, which ultimately became the Texas Brigades.

Today, Texas Brigades has a combination of educational programs, including our popular five-day summer camps, our advanced Wildlife Intensive Leadership Development (WILD) program and our newest, one-day Texas Brigades Experience.

Texas Brigades hosts eight camp programs: two Bobwhite Brigades, two Buckskin Brigades, Bass Brigade, Waterfowl Brigade, Ranch Brigade and Coastal Brigade. These camps provide excellent summer experiences to youths across the state and country. Each camp is five days of intense, interactive, fun learning from top wildlife and natural resource professionals in Texas. Subjects covered include biology, habitat management, watersheds, population dynamics, ecology, botany, photography, journalism, firearm safety, fishing, communication, critical-thinking, team building and leadership.

This organization is represented by its outstanding volunteers, who contribute more than 10,000 hours annually, and its cooperating partners that include the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Wildlife Association Foundation and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Texas Brigades strives to enhance the minds of youths with comprehensive information, a passion for the outdoors and natural resources, and a level of pride that comes with improved leadership and communication skills. Through all of our programs, we reach youths across Texas from rural areas and small towns to suburbs and cities and prepare them to be engaged leaders with a strong land ethic.

Come join us!

For more information, visit our website at www.texasbrigades.org.
**Mission:**

Educate and empower youths with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy.

- **115** Battalions
- **223** Texas Counties represented by a Brigades Cadet
- **900** Communities represented by at least one Texas Brigades Cadet
- Cadets representing 19 other states
- **2,979** Cadets graduated
- **1,000** Hours volunteered annually per each camp committee
- **$50,000** In college scholarships awarded in 2017
- **$150,000** Value of annual in-kind volunteer hours
- **$10,000** Hours donated annually by Texas Brigades volunteers
- **71** College scholarships awarded in 2017
- **73** WILD graduates
- **6** Wildlife Intensive Leadership Development (WILD) Classes
- **71** Cadets representing 19 other states
- **2,979** Cadets graduated
- **41** College scholarships awarded in 2017
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- **223** Texas Counties represented by a Brigades Cadet
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"Conservation leaders in every community."