



WESTCAVE PRESERVE

SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE

2009-2010

Where TEKS Come to Life





SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Westcave Preserve is a natural treasure of the Texas Hill Country possessing unique, majestic beauty and ecological diversity. Located adjacent to the Pedernales River in Southwest Travis County, this 75-acre gem has been providing unique educational experiences for Central Texas students since 1974.

A field trip to Westcave Preserve combines the opportunity to observe the plants, animals, and geology of the Edwards Plateau with a hike into a cool, sheltered canyon of lush plant life. At the head of the canyon stands Westcave, with a waterfall that tumbles over fern-covered travertine, 40 feet to the emerald pool below.

All programs include a guided tour of the Preserve, and schedule permitting, time to explore the exhibits at the Warren Skaaren Environmental Learning Center. Programs are tailored to the age and interest of your group. Teachers may choose from one of our standard programs or request a customized program that meets the needs of their individual class.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

THE WESTCAVE STORY (ALL AGES)

Students learn about Westcave's plants, animals, hydrology and geology and witness the importance of environmental conservation by hearing how Westcave recovered from over-use.

Program Length: 3 hours. **Fee:** \$5 per participant.

ANIMAL AND BOTANICAL MARVELS (ALL AGES)

In Animals and Botanical Marvels students learn about the wildlife and plants of the Preserve, observe the Preserve's distinct habitats, and investigate the Preserve's biodiversity through a biological survey.

Program Length: 4 hours. **Fee:** \$5 per participant.



WATER: LIFE BLOOD OF THE EARTH (3RD GRADE AND UP)

Water: Lifeblood of the Earth examines our most precious resource. Students learn about the hydrologic (water) cycle, groundwater aquifers, nonpoint-source pollution and rainwater harvesting.

Program Length: 3 hours. **Fee:** \$5 per participant.

FIELD STUDY PROGRAM (GRADES 6-8)

Innovative new program offers students the opportunity to be field scientists. Each student is given a field journal and issued a field backpack with supplies needed for their investigations. A classroom pre-visit helps to prepare students and post-visit curriculum guides students through a discussion of their results.

Program Length: 4-6 hours. **Fee:** \$5 per participant.

CLASSROOM PRE-VISIT (ALL AGES)

Classroom pre-visits by a trained Westcave Preserve representative are available for all programs. During the pre-visit, students will watch a short video on Westcave, view natural artifacts from the Preserve, and learn about their upcoming field trip.

Program Length: 30 minutes - 1 hour. **Fee:** Free when scheduled with field trip.

NATURE EXPLORERS' TREASURE CHEST (GRADES 2-3)

A pre- and post-visitation tool for classes planning a trip to Westcave. The chest includes natural objects from the Preserve, a Westcave Preserve videotape, activities, and a listing of TEKS addressed. The chest is available from Westcave Preserve and the Austin Independent School District Science and Health Resource Center.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION



REGISTRATION:

Advance registration is required for all school group programs. To register for a program:

- Contact Westcave Preserve at 830-825-3442 or e-mail info@westcave.org to discuss date availability and size restrictions.
- Return a completed Group Registration Form to the Preserve. The Group Registration Form may be mailed to Westcave Preserve, 24814 Hamilton Pool Road, Round Mountain, Texas 78663 or faxed to 830-825-3509.

FEES:

All programs are \$5 per student or chaperone. Teachers are admitted free.

PAYMENTS:

Payment is due upon arrival. Westcave accepts cash or checks made out to Westcave Preserve.

CANCELLATION:

If it is necessary to cancel your reservation, please call at least two weeks in advance.

ARRIVAL TIME:

Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled arrival time with your total number of participants. Should your group arrive late, your program may have to be shortened. Reduced fees are not offered if your program is shortened due to a late arrival.

WATER:

Westcave Preserve does not have an adequate water supply to meet the needs of all students. We request that you bring water for each of your students.

PICNIC AREA:

Picnic tables are available. However, we cannot provide water or trashcans.

STUDENT PREPARATION:

Please stress to your students that they will need to stay with the group and on the trail at all times. The hike into the canyon and back is roughly one mile, so students should be instructed to wear comfortable shoes and socks. Students should also be advised to dress weather appropriately: light, loose clothing on a hot day and layers on a cold day.

PARKING:

Parking spaces are limited. Please request that chaperones carpool.

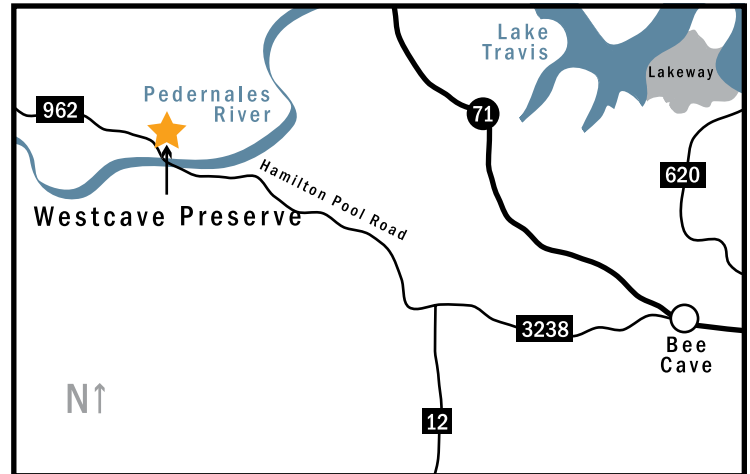
RAIN POLICY:

No tours can be conducted in the event of rain. Please contact the Preserve to discuss weather conditions and re-scheduling your visit if necessary.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information regarding Westcave may be obtained by contacting the Preserve at 830-825-3442 or from our website, www.westcave.org.

Discover Westcave: We're Just Down the Road



Visit www.westcave.org for additional information on:

- Program learning objectives
- TEKS correlations
- Pre- and Post-visit curriculum
- Pictures of the Preserve
- Public programs and tours



Westcave Preserve
24814 Hamilton Pool Road
Round Mountain, TX 78663

Phone: 830-825-3442
Fax: 830-825-3509