The Hill Country STEM Natural Resource Adventure is a free summer camp designed for students who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. TTU’s Outdoor School staff and natural resource professionals will provide students with hands-on, outdoor recreation and learning activities. Campers can look forward to:

- Kayaking the South Llano River
- Observing & identifying birds at the Llano River Field Station and the South Llano River State Park
- Fishing at the South Llano River State Park
- Exploring the wonder of the Hill Country’s night sky
- And, much more!

For more information, contact Outdoor School Program Coordinator, Linda Edwards at 806-834-0272 or outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu
Events: Hill Country STEM Natural Resource Adventures  
Location: Llano River Field Station  
Dates: July 10-14 or July 27-31, 2016  
Application Deadlines: July 1 or July 18, respectively  
Contact: Linda Edwards, outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu, 806-834-0272

The Texas Tech University at Junction Outdoor School invites middle school students to attend a free week of STEM adventure – there are two to choose from! Hill Country STEM Natural Resource Adventures will be held on July 10-14 and July 27-31 at the Llano River Field Station in Junction, TX. (A $25 deposit is required, but will be returned upon student departure at the end of their STEM Adventure.)

Eligible participants will meet the following criteria:

- Have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade at the end of the 2015-2016 school year
- Had no more than 3 days of In School Suspension and 0 days of Out of School Suspension during the 2015-2016 school year
- Preference will be given to low socio-economic, female, and ethnic minority students, due to a requirement of the TPWD grant funding

STEM Adventure participants will experience engaging hands-on curriculum and activities led by Outdoor School staff and natural resource professionals with a focus on land management and conservation. The week will culminate in a community service project that restores native habitat to target areas of the Llano River Field Station. Students will return home with a greater appreciation for nature and natural habitats following an unforgettable outdoor experience that includes kayaking, hiking, fishing, star-gazing, and much more!

The Llano River Field Station offers on-site lodging and dining facilities. Included inside its 411 acres are a variety of habitats and wildlife that campers will have the opportunity to experience.

For additional information contact Linda Edwards, TTU Outdoor School Program Coordinator, at outdoorschool.junction@ttu.edu or (806) 834-0272.
Permission to attend:

I, as parent, guardian or managing conservator (circle one) grant permission for my minor child to participate in The South Llano River Center for Outdoor Learning at Texas Tech University at Junction during the dates indicated. I understand that participation of my child is entirely voluntary and optional on my part. I am aware of the dangers inherent in group activities. In consideration for my child being allowed to participate in this activity, I agree to assume full responsibility for my child’s safety and medical treatment. I agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless Texas Tech University, its Board of Regents, officers, agents and employees from any and all liability for personal injury including death or for damage to property that may occur to my child or to others as a result of my child’s participation. The terms hereof shall also serve as a release and an assumption of risk for my minor child’s heirs, executor and administrator and for all members of my child’s family, and may be pleaded as a bar to litigation. Jurisdiction of this matter and venue shall lie in Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas. I have read this Release and Hold Harmless agreement and understand, and voluntarily accept, its terms. The privilege to go on this trip carries with it the obligation for a student to conduct him/herself in such a way that credit will be reflected upon the student, school, and home represented. Correct dress and behavior for this trip will be observed.

| Student’s Name: ____________________________ | |
| School Name: ____________________________ | |
| Preferred Week (circle one): Week 1: July 10-14 | Week 2: July 27-31 |
| Gender: Male/Female (circle one) | Grade (most recently completed): ______ |
| Student T-Shirt size: Adult Small | Medium | Large | XL | XXL (circle one) |
| Student Race: | | | | | |
| □ Hispanic/Latino | □ Caucasian | □ Asian |
| □ African American | □ Native American | □ Pacific Islander |
| Parent/Guardian Name: ____________________________ | |
| Home Phone: ____________________ | Cell phone:__________________ |
| Home Address: ____________________________ | |
| City: ____________________________ | State: ____ | Zipcode: ____ |
| Email Address: ____________________________ | |
| *Parent’s Signature: ____________________________ | Date: ____________________________ |

Publicity:

I hereby grant TTU Outdoor School staff permission to photograph my child and publish pictures taken for my enjoyment and for souvenir purposes. I understand that by checking NO my child will not be included in any pictures.

*Parent’s Signature: ____________________________ | Yes ____ / No ____ (check one)

Emergency Information:

Family Doctor: ____________________________ Phone: (____) ______
Mother’s Name: ____________________________ Wk. Phone: (____) ______
Father’s Name: ____________________________ Wk. Phone: (____) ______

If, for some reason, I am not available at the above numbers, please contact:

(Please name a friend, relative or neighbor)

Name: ____________________________ Relation: ____________ Phone: (____) ______

In case of accident, sudden illness, or in the event that I cannot be reached immediately by telephone, I hereby authorize the attending adult to refer this child to the above named doctor, emergency facility and/or Kimble County Hospital. I further instruct the above named health care providers and/or Kimble County Hospital to grant my designees the power to act in loco parentis until such time as I can assume responsibility. I further understand that just as at my child’s school, medical care is my financial responsibility.

*Parent’s Signature: ____________________________ | Date: ____________________________
Texas Tech University Outdoor School
Medications and Special Concerns

- If your child is not taking medications, please write NONE and sign where indicated.
- ALL medications must be in the original bottle from pharmacy and dosage must be current.
- List and provide any over-the-counter medications, with dosages, that your student may need.

Student’s Name ____________________________________________________________________________ Male or Female (circle one)

Please share special information about your child including asthma, allergies, food allergies*, special dietary concerns*, sleepwalking, nocturnal incontinence, allergies to bug spray, etc:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

☐ Check here if food allergies are so severe that students cannot be in the same room with the food.

* We are unable to accommodate food limitations. If you state that your child may not have a food, we will not provide that food to your child at any time during their stay at the Outdoor School.

Directions for Administering Medications (Please Print):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine Name and Dosage</th>
<th>Breakfast Time</th>
<th>Lunch Time</th>
<th>Dinner Time</th>
<th>Bed Time</th>
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</table>

Any medicine explanations:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

(if you need more writing space, please attach a sheet of paper)

I/We hereby request, and give permission to TTU Outdoor School staff, medical personnel, Kimble County Hospital and/or appropriately trained teachers to administer medication and/or aid.

*Parent Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________

Doctor’s special instructions (if needed):
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Doctor’s Name: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Doctor’s Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Texas Tech University Outdoor School
Verification of Eligibility

Please complete this form, stating which qualifications your student meets to attend the Hill Country STEM Natural Resource Adventures, with the student name, your name and signature, and the date.

I affirm that my student, ___________________________________________, meets the following mandatory qualifications to attend the Hill Country STEM Natural Resource Adventures:

☐ Have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade at the end of the 2014-2015 school year
☐ Had no more than 3 days of In School Suspension and 0 days of Out of School Suspension during the 2014-2015 school year

I affirm that my student, ___________________________________________, meets the following qualifications of the TPWD grant to attend the Hill Country STEM Natural Resource Adventures (check all that apply; students that do not meet one or more of these qualifications will be placed on a waiting list for registration):

☐ Qualify for free or reduced lunch under the National School Lunch Program
☐ Is considered a racial minority (African-American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander)
☐ Is female

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): ____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ________________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________________________________
Rights and Expectations:

We believe all students have the right to a quality outdoor experience. We also believe that, as teachers, we are entitled to instruct students without interruptions due to poor student behavior. Please sign below, stating that you and your child have read and understood the following guidelines, consequences and procedures.

Guidelines:

1. Students should be attentive and actively participate.

2. Students should respect the rights of others and their property.

3. Students will not horseplay or fight.

Consequences and Procedures:

❖ The student is given a verbal warning.

❖ The student will lose the right to participate in an activity.

❖ The student will be sent home at the parent’s/guardian’s expense.

Fighting, Stealing, and inappropriate physical contact are automatic causes for the student to be sent home at their parents’ expense.

* Parent Signature: ______________________________ Date: ______________

**Student Signature: _____________________________ Date: ______________
The Texas Tech University Outdoor School is devoted to creating innovative educational programs. We provide a setting where children become engaged with the natural world and discover the joy of learning. We immerse learners in authentic, hands-on activities that stimulate imagination, develop a curiosity about life and create an environment to share discoveries.

The Outdoor School is staffed by certified teachers and staff who work to monitor and care for your child for the duration of their stay.

Why should your child go to The STEM Adventure Camp?

- The STEM Adventure Camp will provide your child with meaningful science learning alongside engaging recreational activities.
- The STEM Adventure Camp has designed environmental programs that meet state educational standards, incorporate outdoor recreational activities, and develop the leaders of tomorrow through team work and a community service project.

The students will attend The STEM Adventure Camp for 5 days. During this stay, students will become scientists: Astronomers, Ecologists, Ornithologists, and Aquatic Biologists. Students will collect and record data, becoming immersed in the scientific method throughout their stay.

Will my child receive excellent physical care?

- Yes, the facilities are climate controlled for comfort.
- Yes, there are nutritious meals served in a wonderful dining hall.
- Yes, the instructors will assure that children get rest and have a clean environment.
- Yes, if your child has any special health problems such as allergies, diet, medicine or sleepwalking, he/she will be properly cared for in the time of need. The matter will be kept confidential.
- We are sorry, but parent visits are discouraged at The STEM Adventure Camp due to possible interruptions of scheduling and instruction. If you have an emergency or any questions, please call: 325-446-2301, 8am-5pm. Feel free to mail your child a letter; but mail early! Mail cards and letters the weekend before your child attends The STEM Adventure Camp.

Child’s Name
TTU Outdoor School
PO Box 186
Junction, Texas 76849

1st Day Drop-off and Registration: 11am-Noon
Last Day Pick-up: 1:00-1:45
Needed Clothes and Equipment

PLEASE LABEL all equipment and clothing with your child’s name. Students will be outdoors, so be prepared for any type of weather. Clothing for The STEM Adventure Camp should be rugged and informal.

Bedding – pack bedding in a plastic bag so that it stays clean and dry.
- Pillow with pillow case
- Sleeping bag or sheet and blanket

Clothing and Personal Items
- Enough clothing for the scheduled days, plus one extra outfit
- Long pants: jeans or other rugged pants.
- Shorts: use of shorts will be limited by activity
- Sweatshirt, windbreaker, or jacket
- Extra socks in a zippered bag for the river
- Closed-toe, durable shoes (No flip-flops, crocs, or sandals, please)
- Sleepwear (shorts are acceptable as sleepwear)
- Extra shoes that can be used in the river (No flip-flops, crocs, or sandals, please)

Shower Needs
- Toiletry items: deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb/brush, etc.
- Washcloth and towel
- Optional: shower shoes or *flip-flops (may only be worn for showering)

Other Needs
- Rain gear or poncho – just in case
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Disposable camera, labeled with student name
- Hat/Visor and sunglasses
- Plastic bag for dirty/wet clothing
- Optional items
  - Flashlight
  - Letter writing materials (stamp, envelope, paper)

Please do NOT bring:
- Curling Irons, Flat irons, or hair dryers – we will provide hair dryers
- Electronics: handheld game devices, CD players, iPods, iPads, etc.
- Food, including candy and gum
- Soft drinks
- Pocket knives or other sharp objects
- Make-up, jewelry, nail polish, perfume, or cologne
- Large amounts of money
Directions to TTU-Junction

From San Antonio:

Take I-10 West to Junction exit 460. Follow Loop 481 toward Junction. Turn left on Ranch Road 2169. Follow 2169 to the stop sign at Flatrock Road. Here you will see the entrance to the campus.

From Austin/Fredericksburg:

Take 290 West to I-10 West. Take I-10 West to Junction exit 460. Follow Loop 481 toward Junction. Turn left on Ranch Road 2169. Follow 2169 to the stop sign at Flatrock Road. Here you will see the entrance to the campus.

From Rocksprings:

Take 377 North toward Junction. Approximately 5 miles past the South Llano River State Park, turn right on Flatrock road. Follow to the stop sign at Flatrock road and Ranch Road 2169. Turn right onto the campus.

From Sonora:

Take I-10 East to Junction Exit 456. Follow 83/377 South (N Main St.) into Junction. Stay on 377 South from the intersection at N Main St. and S. 11th St. (Right turn at light onto 11th St.) Turn left on Flatrock Road. Follow to the stop sign at Flatrock road and Ranch Road 2169. Turn right onto the campus.

From Menard/Eden:

Follow 83 South into Junction. (Just North of Junction, this becomes 83/377 south.) Follow 83/377 South (N Main St.) into Junction. Stay on 377 South from the intersection at N Main St. and S. 11th St. (Right turn at light onto 11th St.) Turn left on Flatrock Road. Follow to the stop sign at Flatrock road and Ranch Road 2169. Turn right onto the campus.

From Brady/Mason:

Take 377 South into Junction. (Just North of Junction, this becomes 83/377 south.) Follow 83/377 South (N Main St.) into Junction. Stay on 377 South from the intersection at N Main St. and S. 11th St. (Right turn at light onto 11th St.) Turn left on Flatrock Road. Follow to the stop sign at Flatrock road and Ranch Road 2169. Turn right onto the campus.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

In order to determine effectiveness of the Outdoor School program and, in particular, the Hill Country STEM Natural Resource Adventure, we are conducting a research study. The study involves students taking a pre-survey at the start of the camp and a post-survey at the end of camp. These surveys will not include student names and are voluntary. If you and your student agree, by signing consent forms, they will be given the surveys. If not, they will participate in alternate activities when the surveys are given.

The pre-survey was designed to show student’s awareness and knowledge of certain environmental education issues and concepts before participating in any STEM camp activities and lessons. The post-survey was designed to show student growth in their awareness and knowledge of certain environmental education issues and concepts. The surveys also include a section on demographic data in order to determine if there are any significant differences based on race, gender, grade level, and family activities.

Your help in the research study will provide the Outdoor School and the Llano River Field Station with data that shows program effectiveness as well as areas for improvement.
Parent Consent Form

Thank you for your interest in allowing your child to participate in our research project. This form describes the project and what kinds of questions we will be asking your child. Please read over it carefully and let us know if you have any questions.

What is the purpose of this research?

We are interested in learning how much your child knows about the natural environment at the beginning of their STEM Adventure. We are also interested in how your child’s knowledge of the natural environment changes after attending their STEM Adventure.

What will be asked?

Your child will be given two surveys, one at the start and one at the end of their STEM Adventure, asking a variety of questions concerning what they know about the natural environment.

Are there any risks to participating?

We don’t expect your child to encounter any risks other than those experienced in everyday life.

Will my child’s privacy be protected?

Yes! Your child’s privacy is important to us. Surveys will not include your child’s name or any other personal information that would allow someone to identify your child based on the information included on the survey. Data about your child’s ethnicity, race, recently completed grade in school, and age will be collected and used to group data. This will allow us to determine if trends in the data exist, allowing us to improve the effectiveness or future STEM Adventures. In any report that we publish, we won’t report individual responses, only overall responses for the group.

Is this research voluntary?

Yes! You’re child’s participation in the pre- and post-surveys is completely voluntary. You can decide right now that you don’t want your child to participate
and that is okay. Whether or not you participate will not affect you or your child’s relationship with Texas Tech University or the Outdoor School.

**Will my child or I receive any compensation for participating?**

There will be no compensation provided to either you or your child for their participation in this research.

**Can I find out the results of this study?**

Results may be obtained via email in Fall 2016. If you would like the results, be sure to provide a valid email address.

**Who should I contact if I have more questions?**

If you have any questions regarding this study, please feel free to contact Linda Edwards at linda.edwards@ttu.edu or Dr. Tom Arsuffi at (325) 446-2301, tom.arsuffi@ttu.edu, Texas Tech University Center at Junction, Llano River Field Station, 254 Red Raider Lane, P.O. Box 186 Junction, TX 76849.

For additional questions about your child’s rights as a subject, contact the Texas Tech University Human Research Protection Program, Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409. Or you can call (806) 742-2064.

*Print Name of Parent/Guardian: ________________________________*

*Signature of Parent or Guardian: ________________________________*

*Name of Child: ________________________________*

*Date: ________________________________*

This consent form is not valid after August 31, 2016

(Remember, even if you do say, “Yes,” now, you can change your mind later.)
Assent Form – Minors
(to be completed by the student)

I am interested in what you already know about the natural environment and what new information you will learn while at the Hill Country STEM Natural Resource Adventure. I will be giving you two surveys that will help me with this. The first survey will be given on the first day of your STEM Adventure. This will give me an idea of what you already know. The second survey will be given on the last day of your STEM Adventure. This will show me what you have learned during your stay.

Helping me with these surveys is up to you. If you decide you don’t want to participate in the surveys, that’s okay.

To participate in these surveys, please complete the following:

__________________________________________
(Student’s printed name)

__________________________________________
(Student’s signature)

__________________________________________
(Date)