



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 23, 2013

Education Service Center, Region 2 awarded Texas Outdoor Education Association Program Award for Excellence...

The Education Service Center, Region 2 (ESC-2), is proud to announce receipt of the Texas Outdoor Education Association (TOEA) Program Award for Excellence. This recognition is granted to organizations that diversify educational experiences in the great outdoors and is presented every October. The ESC-2 serves 42 public school districts and 5 charter schools in the Coastal Bend region in grades ranging from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

In order to make teaching and learning more engaging, the ESC-2 strives to offer administrators, teachers, students, parents, businesses, and community members a wide variety of opportunities to appreciate our scenic Coastal Bend region while also learning required academic content. The ESC-2 promotes learning in the outdoors for several reasons: to make learning relevant, nurture creativity and imagination, develop learning through play and experimentation, improve attendance, reduce behavior problems, incite interest in the environment, expose children to new opportunities, and promote healthy activities.

A few of the workshops and events that earned the ESC-2 this award include: *Taking Math and Science Outdoors*; *School Integrated Pest Management (IPM)*; *Visually Impaired Picnic*; *Annual Technology Olympics*; *Project Giddy-UP: South Texas Trail Ride*; *Stunt Ranch*; and *Outdoor Play for Infants and Toddlers* to name a few. The ESC-2 has several additional workshops and events that promote outdoor learning planned for the future including Corpus Christi's First Annual Kite Festival (participant) and voices of South Texas (storytelling and reenactment of people and events in South Texas history). Additionally, the ESC-2's Early Scholars Academy (ESA) features several thematic discovery learning centers focusing on polar, tropics, and ocean regions of the earth, Earth and its elements, space, travel, the human body, plants, and animals. All discovery centers are accompanied by learning experiences that involve total body movement and outdoor activities.

For more information about this award please contact:

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