Texas Children in Nature

Celebrating the Collective Successes in Texas!
Texas Children in Nature

• Has 6 Regional Collaboratives in:
  – Austin
  – San Antonio
  – Lubbock
  – South Texas
  – North Texas
  – Houston

www.texaschildreninnature.org
Unified Messaging

• Studies show that children and families who spend time in nature are Healthier, Happier and Smarter

• We want outdoor time to be family time
Texas Children in Nature - Houston

Regional Leaders:
• Jaime Gonzalez - Katy Prairie Conservancy
• David Crossley - Houston Tomorrow
Texas Children in Nature - Houston

• Creation of getoutherehouston.org website
• Initiation of HERE Project (First online module to be released Spring 2016)— a regional, place-based environmental education initiative.
• People & Nature Conference (October 2015)
• Greater coordination between member groups
Texas Children in Nature- Houston

- Vision or Goal
Texas Children in Nature - South Texas

Regional Leaders:

• Sara Jose - Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program
• Colleen McCue - Mission-Aransas Reserve at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute
• Sarah Coles - Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

www.naturerockssouthtexas.org

Facebook and Twitter
Texas Children in Nature - South Texas

• Gulf STREAMing Teacher Professional Development Event
• The Annual Texas Coastal Bend Regional Tourism Council’s Educational Seminar
• Community Outreach Events: Earth Day, Aquafest, and Bridgewalk
• Involvement from the Health Care Community: Local family physician Dr. Bruce Russell was featured as Texas Academy of Family Physicians Member of the Month.
• Our Blueprint - One of our most notable accomplishments was creating the written plan for organizing a leadership team, network structure, and bylaws for our region.
Texas Children in Nature- South Texas

South Texas Children in Nature will continue to help organizations provide opportunities for children to get outdoors. We will work to increase collaboration and partnerships amongst families, educators, health care providers, organizations and community members within the Coastal Bend and South Texas.
Texas Children in Nature - Caprock

Regional Leaders:

• Susan Rowe – Lubbock Lake Historic Landmark
• Jenny Strovas - Texas Tech University
Texas Children in Nature- Caprock

• Hike for Health
• Regional Collaboration from the largest region in the state
• Nature Rocks Caprock

Vision or Goal
Grow the Region membership and subdivide into a Northern and Southern region so that all Partners are active and thriving in their communities.
Texas Children in Nature- San Antonio

Regional Leaders

• Judit Green – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
• Thea Platz- Northside School Disctrict
• Stacy McReynolds – San Antonio Zoo
• Koy Coffer- AgriLife- 4 -H
Texas Children in Nature- San Antonio

- Bi-monthly meetings are held at various TCIN partner sites in an effort to learn more about each other and our facilities/businesses.
- **Marketing tools** such as: business cards, letter, bookmarks, yard sign, banner, FB, Twitter.
- The **Nature Rocks San Antonio** website is continually updated and promoted by partners.

[www.naturerocksanantonio.org](http://www.naturerocksanantonio.org)

Facebook, Twitter
Texas Children in Nature- San Antonio

- Partners support each other at established annual outdoor events: TX Wildlife Association’s San Antonio Rodeo booth, San Antonio Mission’s Get Outdoors event, San Antonio Zoo’s Get Out and Play event, etc.
Regional Leaders:

- **Melody Wood**, Executive chair
- **Brittany Serna** and **Leslie Wittenburg**, Education Committee co-chairs
- **Melissa Martin**, Community Outreach chair
- **Laura Veloz**, Communications chair
- **Billy Martin**, Newsletter chair
- **Heather Foote**, Speakers Bureau chair
- **Haily Summerford**, State & Conference liaison
Texas Children in Nature- North Texas

• Community marketing efforts including: **business cards, quarterly member newsletter, and promotional brochure**.

• Ongoing membership outreach including a recent **Sustainability Survey** to over 350 members.

• **Nature Rocks North Texas** website sponsorship, maintenance and regular updates from our Partners.

• Active Steering Committee for each state-aligned team with a focus on the needs of the DFW community. Steering Committees groups include Education, Communication, Community Outreach, Nature Rocks North Texas, Newsletter, and a Speakers Bureau.

• Intern to assist with Nature Rocks North Texas.
Texas Children in Nature - North Texas

• WildFUN program and seeing how nature calms and focuses “energetic” children
• Convincing our Board to jump on the nature-play bandwagon with a bright pink, glittery purse full of rocks
Texas Children in Nature- North Texas

Vision for the Future:

• To see all nature-related organizations in the DFW region as TCIN-NT members in an effort to our community outside on a regular basis.

www.naturerocksnorthtexas.org
Facebook, twitter
Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin

Ryan Spencer- Westcave Outdoor Discovery

Molly Stevens- Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center

Jessica Wilson- Watershed Protection Dept., City of Austin

Jennifer Mull- Backwoods, Inc.

Alice Nance- LBJ Wildflower Center

Margaret Russell- City of Austin, Nature and Science Center

Amy Rampy- The Broussard Group

Andrew Springer, Ph.D.- University of Texas, School of Public Health

Hayden Brooks- American Realty

Jennifer Bristol- Texas Children in Nature

Jennifer Chapman- Travis County

Allen Cooper- National Wildlife Federation

Marya Fowler- National Wildlife Federation

Ky Harkey- TPWD

Heather Kuhlken- Austin Families in Nature

Monica Lopez- Keep Austin Beautiful

Jennifer Mull- Backwoods, Inc.

Anne Muller- AISD
Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin

- Launching CiNCA
- Greening Schoolyards and greeningyourschoolyards.com
- Natural Leaders – Austin
- Austin Families in Nature (AFiN)
- Celebration of Children and Nature
- Nature Rocks Austin
Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin

• Funding your regional collaborative

www.natuwrerocksaustin.org
www.westcave.org/cinca
Facebook, Twitter
Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin

Vision for the Future:
Every child in Central Texas gets outside to learn and or play every day!
State Wide Programs and projects

Texas Nature Challenge
Nature Rocks Texas
Million Mile Month
National Conference
Texas Children in Nature

www.texaschildreninnature.org
www.naturerockstexas.org
info@texaschildreninnature.org