

Houston Environmental Resources for Educators

HEREinHouston.org



City Nature Challenge

Going stir-crazy at home? Want to get outside and have some fun? Join our community in the [City Nature Challenge](#). It is easy to participate from your backyard, nearby park or waterway. Simply download the **iNaturalist** app onto your phone or tablet. Take pictures of wildlife, using the app, during the 4-day challenge, from April 24 to 27.

If you need help, [here's a guidebook](#), or check out the [Houston-Galveston Challenge Facebook page](#). Visit

the Houston Chapter of the [Native Prairie Association of Texas' website](#) for an instructional video, check out this [YouTube video from The Wild Report](#), or take [the official training with Jaime Gonzalez](#) of The Nature Conservancy (for our experts!).

Have fun outdoors, while observing and photographing plants, insects, reptiles, birds and animals in and around Houston. Last year, we topped 3,000 species. **How many will we find, with your help, in 2020?**

A promotional graphic for the City Nature Challenge 2020. It features a red cardinal perched on a branch at the top. Below it is a blue banner with the text "HOW WILD IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?". Underneath are three icons: a magnifying glass for "Find Wildlife", a camera for "Take a Picture", and a share icon for "Share!". To the right is a chipmunk and a circular badge that says "Participate anywhere in Texas!". At the bottom, a green banner reads "200+ Cities Participate from April 24-May 3, 2020". Below this are logos for "REGIONAL COORDINATORS" (the Houston Museum of natural science) and "STATE & NATIONAL COORDINATORS" (NATURE TRACKERS, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY TEXAS, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES, and NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM). A URL "More info @ https://bit.ly/2TNBVOI" is at the bottom left, and a monarch butterfly is on the bottom left.

Resources for Earth Day, April 22

The Earth Day Houston event may be postponed until next year, but you can still participate in the 50th anniversary.

Start with the [Earth Day Network website](#) to see virtual international celebrations, demonstrations and teach-ins.

Calling young artists - submit pictures to [Click 2 Houston "Mother Nature" Art Contest](#) or submit your sidewalk chalk art to the [Texas Children in Nature Facebook page](#).

Join [Galveston Bay Foundation Earth Day Virtual Event on Facebook](#) and [Houston Arboretum Earth Day Virtual celebration](#).

Keep up with [Houston Arboretum's Nature Blogs](#), with fun, outdoor activities for the entire family.



Classroom Resources



Galveston Bay Foundation published "[At Home With The Bay](#)," a virtual series of engaging environmental education lessons including videos, labs, conservation crafts, talks with biologists and enrichment activities. Each lesson comes with an accompanying activity guide, available [here in Google Drive](#).

Teaching about Texas **wildlife**? Use resources from Texas Wildlife Association, Houston Audubon, Houston Zoo and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Resources aggregated for you at [HEREinHouston.org](#).

Visit the EcoRise [At-Home Learning Resources](#) page for parents and guardians that need **STEM** and sustainability lessons that will engage PreK–12th grade students at home, on- and off-screen.

Additional resources aggregated on the [HEREinHouston.org](#) website.

Virtual Events in May

May 1 - "Capturing and Sharing Ecosystems Using Smartphone Apps," a workshop with Jaime Gonzalez of The Nature Conservancy. [Register in advance](#).

May 6 - Virtually WILD Texas, a program of [Houston Community Partnerships & Engagement](#), goes to the Nash Prairie Preserve in Brazoria. Registration and additional information [on the Region 4 website](#).

May 9 - World Migratory Bird Day with Houston Audubon is on [Facebook](#), featuring contests, presentations and videos.

May 16 - Bay Day Festival with Galveston Bay Foundation on their [website](#) and [Facebook](#). Participate by [submitting a video](#).

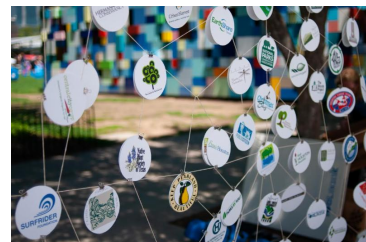
Weekdays at 11, join the Houston Zoo on [Facebook](#). They have accompanying activities for every "Bringing the Zoo to You" encounter [on their website](#).

Check out the entire, statewide calendar on this [Google Document](#), compiled by Texas Children in Nature. Send your own updates to [Sarah Coles](#).

Informal Educators

Join the Citizens' Environmental Coalition at our premier space in the exhibition hall at CAST in Houston in November. Reach 5,000 educators, and promote our environmental educators in Houston. Contact [Alicia](#) if you would like to be part of the action.

Spend some time looking at the "[Mapping the State of the K-12 Environmental Education Programs](#)" from EcoRise. [Here's a link](#) to a dashboard of data; imagine the power of these tools and the collective impact we can make in the region. [Please add your data to this year's survey](#), and contact [Alicia](#) if you have questions.



Professional Development

NAAEE is offering a number of webinars in April, May, and June; please see [this list of upcoming opportunities](#). Our favorite? The [Webinar on Webinars](#).



naaee

North American Association
for Environmental Education

Be prepared to help our community post-pandemic by digging into **Social-Emotional Learning** resources from [CASEL](#).

Take time to finish your portfolio to become a [Texas Certified Environmental Educator](#). Email [Brian](#) if you have any questions or need help with your application.

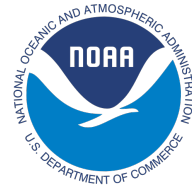
Join the Citizens' Environmental Coalition on August 7 for the **Greater Houston Environmental Summit**. Submit your proposal for a 20 minute table talk about "Mapping Houston's Environmental Movement" with [this Google form](#) by April 31. Note: hosts receive complimentary registration. Contact [Alicia](#) if you have questions.

The [Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching](#) (CAST) is November 5 - 7, 2020, in Houston. **To promote quality environmental education at one of the nation's premier conferences**, please consider submitting a presentation about EE. [CFP is open until May 8.](#)

Finally...

Take a moment to dive (virtually) into the [Flower Garden Banks](#) National Marine Sanctuary in the Gulf of Mexico. Betcha can't find a lionfish...

Have a great week and thank you for all you do to promote environmental literacy in Houston. Keep up the great work, **EEvengers**. Contact [Alicia](#) or [Jaime](#) if you need anything, unless it's a good laugh, then check out [this version of The Lorax](#).



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