

ETZ Education Dept Overview 2020

Ellen Trout Zoo's mission is to connect people to the natural world and our education department does just that! ETZ is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and spreads a message of conservation with our education outreach and events. The AZA requires an education department to be accredited.

Positions & Hierarchy:

Director of Education	Whitney Heckler
-volunteers & interns	
Zoo Educator	Taylor Galaviz
- animal care & signs	
Seasonal Educator	TBD for Summer 2019
-summer animal care & zoo safari summer camp assistance	
***Contract Teachers - local teachers that are paid a small weekly stipend to teach Zoo Safari from 9 am - 12 noon during the 9 weeks of camp only	

Professional Organizations: International Zoo Educators (IZE)
Texas Aquarium and Zoo Educators (TAZE)
Accredited by Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC)
Completion of AZA Conservation Education course - Charlotte & Whitney

Educational Programs:

K-12 Programs - Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are the statewide curriculum standards taught in school. ETZ education coordinates with Lufkin ISD (LISD) and other school districts to present programs that support teachers in all disciplines in teaching these TEKS to their students. A lot of our programs are the hands-on application to the concepts being taught by science teachers.

- Examples: 2nd grade Feeding Lab - herbivore, omnivore, carnivore
- 1st grade Critter Classification - mammal, bird, reptile
- Lufkin MS 6th grade Science Benchmark Review Day - abiotic/biotic, community, population, etc.
- Lufkin MS 7th grade Macroinvertebrate Survey of ET Lake - TEK 7b.10. The student knows that there is a relationship between organisms and the environment. (A) observe and describe how different environments, including microhabitats in schoolyards and biomes, support different varieties of organisms; (B) describe how biodiversity contributes to the sustainability of an ecosystem; and (C) observe, record, and describe the role of ecological succession such as in a microhabitat of a garden with weeds.

- Coordinating with LISD's pacing calendar (which schedules when in the year to teach which TEK) is also vital for multi-visit programs to make sure our presentations are aligning with what is currently being taught in class. Ex: Dunbar's 1st grade class that attends once a month

Speciality Programs - special requests from a teacher/professor about a certain subject or topic they would like help covering or a special visit to a local facility.

- Examples: Library Programs
- Zoonotic Disease presentation for Lufkin HS STEM class
 - Texas Forestry Museum Reading Railroad event
 - Venomous Snake Program at Huntsville Hospital

Teacher Resources and Support - Charlotte & Whitney are both Growing Up & Project WILD curriculum facilitators (part of TPWD)/In-service workshops for returning teachers

SFA Labs - The Captive Animal Management program for SFA Forestry students is part of a entry level class in the forestry department and explains how managing a SSP population in human care differs from managing a wild population. Covers age pyramids, breeding coefficients and conservation programs. Includes a behind the scenes tours in the 5 main areas: Hippo Barn, Commissary, Giraffe/Rhino Barn, Big Cat Building, and Herp Service.

Zoo Safari: 9 week summer camp program, 360 students, 40 per week, 20 per class

Classes: 1st & 2nd grade Zoologists - learn about new class of animals each day
3rd & 4th grade Wild Detectives - explore habitats of N&S America/Africa
5th & 6th grade Zoo Engineers - exhibit design & big cat enrichment project
\$65 per student Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 noon

Jr Zoo Keeper: Competitive program where students going into 7th, 8th and 9th grade can apply to be paired with keeper staff to see if a zoo career is for them. An application, essay, and teacher recommendation are turned in through March and April then an interview in April with education staff helps determine the 20 student that are selected for the summer.

\$85 per student, Monday- Friday: 8:30 - 9 am Class with Charlotte - Zoo 101
9 - 10:15/10:30 - 11:45 am with Keeper Staff

Session 1 is two weeks of mid June with 10 students.

Session 2 is two weeks of mid July with 10 students.

Special Events: 4 hosted by education, 2 by FOETZ

Attendees must pay for additional ticket events:

Princess & the Frog (FEB) & Raiders of the Lost Zoo (MAR)
Zoo Brew (MAY) - FOETZ

Regular admission to the zoo for the event:

Earth Day (APR) - focused on local plants & animals, recycling, and getting outdoors!
Endangered Species Day (SEPT) - partnership with Lufkin High Schools 4 level Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) students to fundraise for 4 endangered SSP animals at ETZ. Students fundraise for their conservation team from the beginning of school until the day of the event. Winning conservation team wins a Hippo Feeding Lab tour.

Zoo Boo (OCT) - FOETZ

Education Building Use: ETZ Education building is not open to the general public. Anyone using the building must schedule it with the director. The building is a City of Lufkin facility and city policies apply. We cannot rent out the education building. There is a building policy that is sent or given to anyone using the room.

Education Dept Numbers:

# of students served in 2019:	10,000
Every Year:	
# of Zoo Safari Summer Camp students:	360
# of Jr Zookeepers:	20
# of tickets available for P&F and Raiders:	480