The Outdoor Adventures course is a hands-on, real-world curriculum that will provide and expose students to a wide range of outdoor activities. Through this course students will learn new outdoor skills. (Archery, Fishing, Survival, Etc...) Learning new skills can encourage students to do better in school and feel more confident as young adults.

Research shows students engaged in outdoor activities:

- Are healthier physically and mentally
- Do better in school.
- Have higher self-esteem
- Have good self-discipline.
- Feel more capable and confident.
- Are good problem-solvers.
- Are more cooperative with others
- Are more creative
The Dallas Ecological Foundation (DEF) is a qualified 501 (c)(3) charitable organization under IRS regulations. The DEF is currently sponsoring outdoor adventure education programs in more than one hundred secondary schools in Texas. Each school follows the Dallas Ecological Foundation’s Outdoor Adventures curriculum. Outdoor Adventures Education is a Proud Partner with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This partnership provides quality teacher training across the great state of Texas and vital resources for all of the Outdoor Adventure programs. The curriculum is now being offered to any public or private secondary school in Texas.

Mission Statement
Dallas Ecological Foundation’s Outdoor Adventures Education

The mission of the Dallas Ecological Foundation’s Outdoor Adventures program is to instill in every child through a hands-on, real-world curriculum:

- an appreciation for the outdoors;
- the desire for conservation of wildlife/habitat;
- an improved self-worth/wellbeing.

The goal of the DEF outdoor adventure education curriculum is to provide and expose students and their parents to a wide range of outdoor activities.

- Research has clearly shown that students involved in extracurricular activities tend to engage in appropriate behavior and perform academically better in school.
- Research shows that students who are actively engaged in the educational process have greater attendance and academic achievement.
- Research also proves that students tend to stay away from drugs when the parents are actively participating in activities with their child.
- Research shows students engaged in outdoor activities:
  - Are healthier physically and mentally.
  - Do better in school.
  - Have higher self-esteem.
  - Have good self-discipline.
  - Feel more capable and confident.
  - Are good problem-solvers.
  - Are more cooperative with others.
  - Are more creative.
  - Feel connected to nature.
  - Are tomorrow’s conservation leaders (Lifesbetteroutside.org)
Course Accreditation and Curriculum

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) Adventure/Outdoor Education course is found under physical education, Section 116.53. The Dallas Ecological Foundations Outdoor Adventures curriculum covers all of the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) in Section 116.53. The TEA’s PEIMS Service ID is PE AOE 03830102. TEKS for middle school courses are found throughout Section 116.23-24. Outdoor Adventures curriculum is aligned to the National Standards NPE K-12.1-7.

The curriculum includes:
1) Complete Scope and Sequence
2) Course Syllabus – One semester or two semester options
3) Complete daily lesson plans for 18 weeks that include: TEKS, objectives, detailed lessons, enrichment opportunities, modifications, assessments, beginning class/bell work activities, assignments and end of unit exams.
4) Many lessons incorporate technology, cross-curricular opportunities, math, science, writing and TAKS applications.
5) Units include:
   a. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Hunter Safety Education
   b. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Angler Education
   c. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – National Archery in Schools Program
   d. Texas Parks and Wildlife Boat Safety Education
   e. Orienteering and GPS Unit – Basic and Advanced
   f. Wilderness Survival Unit – Basic and Advanced
   g. Outdoor Cooking Unit
   h. Camping Unit
   i. Challenge Course
   j. Paddle Safe Paddle Smart – Kayak Unit
   k. CPR/First Aid Unit
4) Resources and Equipment options

A General Description of Outdoor Adventures

Outdoor Adventures is a fun and exciting co-ed physical education course. Students are taught life-long skills by using integrated curriculum of science, math, writing, critical thinking skills, and computer technology. The focus is on outdoor activities such as: archery, orienteering, survival skills, first aid/CPR, trip planning, angling, tackle crafts, hiking, backpacking, camping, outdoor cooking, conservation/environmental issues and certifications through the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the American Heart Association.

On campus activities include: archery, angling, CPR/first aid, survival skills, trip planning, tackle crafts, and orienteering.

Rationale and Justification

The Outdoor Adventures physical education class is not your traditional PE course. Instead of teaching PE with basketballs and tennis rackets, we use rods and reels, and bows and arrows. The Outdoor Adventures course is designed to change young people’s lives forever by exposing them to the many great opportunities of the outdoors. In today’s accelerated curriculum, full of benchmark testing, TAKS tests and academic pressures, students need a fun class that will motivate them to stay in school and concentrate on their studies. The course and curriculum is offered in 100 secondary schools with numerous positive attributes associated with the class. School principals report improved self esteem, improved attendance, improved discipline issues and improved grades for students while enrolled in the course. Furthermore, many students are not involved in extracurricular activities and the Outdoor Adventures program helps
those students become engaged in the educational system. After school archery teams and fishing clubs have been created in some schools.

**Curriculum**

The Dallas Ecological Foundation’s Outdoor Adventures curriculum is available through the follow website under the education tab: [www.dallasecologicalfoundation.org](http://www.dallasecologicalfoundation.org). Create a log-in and our administration team will provide you details on purchasing the curriculum. Curriculum is $500.00 per school.

Additional curriculum for high school social studies courses is free and available in the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation tab.

**Teacher Training**

The Dallas Ecological Foundation will provide teacher training by certified instructors for each unit offered in the outdoor adventures education program. There will be multiple training dates per semester and a week long training session each summer. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department instructor trainings for Hunter Safety, Angler Education, Boat Safety and National Archery in Schools Program are 6 to 8 hours long. The training for the other units varies in length and may be grouped together to maximize time. Some teacher training outside of the Metroplex area may be organized depending upon locations and instructor availability. All teacher training is scheduled and organized by the DEF’s Outdoor Adventures coordinator, Scot McClure at [scot@dallasecologicalfoundation.org](mailto:scot@dallasecologicalfoundation.org).

**Qualification of the Teacher**

All teacher training for the specific units offered in the curriculum are free. Most high schools offer the Outdoor Adventures program as a regular physical education class utilizing a certified physical education teacher. Some schools want to offer the course to all students and offer the course as a local elective and increasing the overall participation in the course. The schools that offer it as both a physical education and local elective course have over 300 students enrolled in the course, example: Keller High School and Coppell High School. The local elective course can be any secondary certified teacher. At the middle school level, the course is usually a local elective course.

**Credit Requested and Grade Level**

1 Semester or ½ Credit for 7th through 12th grade.

**Texts**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides free textbooks and classroom instructional materials for the hunter safety, boat safety and angler units. All TPWD resources are available to all teachers who have completed their certifications provided by the teacher training opportunities.

**Some of the Schools Using the Outdoor Adventures Curriculum**

**High Schools**

- Argyle
- Arlington Bowie
- Arlington High
- Arlington Houston
- Arlington Lamar
- Arlington Martin
- Arlington Seguin
- Byron Nelson
- Cedar Hill
- Chico
- College Park -Woodlands
- Colleyville Heritage
- Coppell
- GPISD Crosswinds
- East Central San Antonio
Occasionally, a school district administration will have some specific questions about the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s National Archery in Schools Program. The program is extremely safe and very popular with students. The following information is from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to help answer some potential questions:

- NASP began in 22 Kentucky schools in March 2002. The goal was to start one school archery program in each Kentucky County (120) in 3 years. That goal was achieved in 13 months.
- Six years later (2008) the program has grown to 5000 schools in 46 states and four other countries. Last school year 866,000 students (4th-12th grades) learned this lifetime skill from their teacher. This year 1,000,000 students will participate in NASP. 16,000 school teachers are “NASP Certified” to teach archery. Most are physical education teachers but some teach ‘archery math, science, language arts.’ About 1/3 of the schools have an after school archery program.
The 2008 NASP national tournament was the largest archery event in North America (2865 participants).

In a survey conducted by Responsive Management® teachers told us:
  - NASP improves student self-confidence (84%)
  - NASP improves student motivation (78%)
  - NASP improves student behavior (73%)
  - NASP improves student attitudes (74%)
  - NASP improves student focus (66%)
  - NASP improves teacher/student relationship (70%)
  - NASP improves student performance in PE (43%)
  - NASP improves students learning skills (43%)

THE FACTS ABOUT HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION

Occasionally, a school district administration will have some specific questions about the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Hunter Safety education unit. The following information is from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to help answer some potential questions:

- Currently in Texas, there are between 750-900 public schools teaching this course.
- This safety course has been taught in public Texas schools since 1972.
- This safety course is only 10 hours of instruction.
- This is about 2 weeks of instruction time during an 18-week semester.
- This safety course requires that the first five chapters in the hunter education manual be taught in order to certify a student.
- Firearms are never brought onto a campus.
- The truth is, you do not have to fire a firearm in order to become certified.
- At school, students are never taught how to load, unload or fire a firearm.
- Students are taught about SAFETY.
- Students are taught about ethics.
- Students learn about wildlife conservation and management of our land.

While the Dallas Ecological Foundation encourages the Hunter Safety unit to be included in all of their Outdoor Adventures programs, once a school district purchases a curriculum, it is the school administration’s option to choose the units of instruction their school will include in their Outdoor Adventures courses.

Certification Fees

Certification for any unit of instruction is an option to every student/parent. Students that elect to become certified will need to pay the fees set by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Certifications that require fees:
- TPWD Hunter Safety Education
- TPWD Boat Safety Education
- CPR/First Aid

The CPR/First Aid fee may be determined by the instructor and their campus due to consumable expenses.

Equipment

The primary equipment needed for the Outdoor Adventures course is archery and angler gear. The archery equipment must be the NASP approved archery gear. The angler equipment can be any combination of rods and reels from various vendors. The Dallas Ecological Foundation has numerous grant opportunities available through outdoor conservation programs to assist schools with their equipment needs. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department also has school sets of the NASP and angler gear available for schools to loan. Check with your local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offices for the availability of the school sets.
Get Started Today

If you have any questions or if you would like further information, please contact:
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