

TEXAS RANGER HALL
OF FAME AND MUSEUM



EDUCATION REPORT

JANUARY, 2009

Compiled by Casey Eichhorn, Education Coordinator

The Board and staff of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum express their sincere appreciation to the Texas Ranger Association Foundation for their generous support of the museum's educational programs.

The commitment you have made to this memorial to Captain Robert K. Mitchell has enabled the museum to provide a wide range of educational programs to children and adults.

In the first year of the program there was a 35% overall increase in the number of children from across the region participating in museum programs.

	2008	2007	% of 2007
January	88	42	210%
February	257	197	130%
March	233	266	88%
April	627	339	185%
May	886	812	109%
June	191	120	159%
July	272	55	495%
August	140	20	700%
September	37	31	119%
October	100	175	57%
November	101	127	80%
December	50	14	357%



CAPTAIN ROBERT K. MITCHELL

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The Captain Robert K. Mitchell Education Coordinator works with a wide variety of regional and statewide agencies to develop and implement educational programs related to the Texas Rangers including museum school programs, camps, field trips and in-school activities.

After a delay in construction, the Coordinator is preparing for the opening of the Texas Ranger Public Safety Education Center. The center will assist groups hosting programs for children and adults that promote safety, positive life choices and personal responsibility. It will be available at no cost to service providers, care-givers and law enforcement personnel who work with youth.



Capt. Robert K. Mitchell

TEXAS RANGER PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION CENTER

Construction of the Texas Ranger Public Safety Education Center is 90 percent complete. New promotional materials, including rack cards, fliers and pamphlets have been developed advertising the center to potential users.



Interior – Mitchell Education Center

Groups that will use the facility include the Texas Rangers, Texas DPS, Fire, Sheriffs and Police departments, the F.B.I., the Texas Attorney General's office, Texas Constables, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and home-school groups.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The quality and range of the museum's educational programs continue to increase as more school teachers, parents and programming partners become involved. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is in a unique position of being able to promote and inspire appreciation of the Texas Rangers and law enforcement through programs such as student C.S.I. training and the application of surveying in law enforcement. All school programming at the museum follows parameters set by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (T.E.K.S.), which helps to provide justification for school administrators and teachers to bring classes to the museum.

Over the past six months, **46 school groups** (including home school co-ops) have participated in tours and special programs at the museum. While guided tours have remained very popular (particularly with groups in the fourth and seventh grade), the C.S.I. program has also proved to be especially popular. Currently, the major limitation to the interactive programs and guided tours is the manageable child to instructor ratio (about

20:1). However, as volunteers are recruited, more students will be able to participate in these programs simultaneously.



The Ranger Surveyor program has been popular among scouting groups of both boys and girls. This program already has bookings for the months of April, May and June.

Many scouting groups are booking self-guided tours through the museum during this time of year (in the month of January, 2009 alone there were five scouting groups booked).

The museum will continue to cater to the needs of these scouting groups as many school field trip programs face travel cutbacks with the current economic situation. A multiple day scouting summer camp program is currently in the developmental stages and should be ready for promotion by the end of February, 2009.

Many of the scouting groups that visit the museum are actually from areas in and around Temple and Killeen, rather than McLennan County.

EXHIBIT CONCEPTS AND DEVELOPMENT

Educators play a key role in the development of museum exhibits. They assist the team with the development of content and concepts that will be easily read and understood by the majority of children and adults.



For the 40th anniversary of the museum the staff developed an exhibit showcasing items donated or purchased by the City of Waco for the museum since 1968. Exhibit labels describe the importance of individual objects, including artwork and artifacts. The exhibit will be on display until October 31st, 2009.

The museum has an exhibit on display that teaches children about the importance of crime scene investigation, as well as how to build their own

“detective” kit. Plans to expand this exhibit include a desktop workstation where children and adults alike can practice dusting for fingerprints or look under a microscope at hair, skin and fiber samples. The education coordinator is currently seeking out grant funding for this project.

The exhibits committee is also discussing the possibility of converting a current exhibit gallery into an interactive crime scene where visitors can “assist a Texas Ranger” in solving a crime through the analysis of evidence.

ONLINE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The museum is lesson plans and online units about the Texas Rangers for teachers to use in the classroom. Each lesson plan is designed to meet T.E.K.S. (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) requirements. Education Service Center Region 12 has agreed to assist with the promotion of the units through their regular print publications as well as online.

Units:

- Communications Technology (Social Studies and Science)
- Character Education
- Crime Scene Investigation and the Importance of Evidence (Science)
- Diversity of the Rangers (Social Studies)
- Historic Captains (Social Studies)
- Mathematics in the Workplace (Math)
- Texas Ranger Popular Culture (Social Studies)

2008 SAFE AND SPOOKY COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

The annual Safe and Spooky Community (Halloween) Carnival provides families with the opportunity to trick-or-treat in a safe environment while learning about various aspects of public safety and general wellbeing. Due to the planned renovation of Knox Hall, the 2008 event was held in the Texas Room of the Waco Convention Center. **More than 5,000 people from across Central Texas attended the free program, which hosted booths and activities sponsored by city departments, non-profit organizations and private businesses.** In comparison, approximately 1,500 people attended the 2007 event. This year's participants included:

American Red Cross
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Teen Safe (Hillcrest)
Kid Safe (Hillcrest)
Oncor
Waco-MC Library
Waco PD (McGruff)
Waco-MC Public Health
Family Health Center

Waco Fire Dpt.
Waco Wetlands
ETMC
Waco Solid Waste
Waco Safety
H-E-B
Advocacy Center
Texas Forest Service
F.B.I. (San Antonio)

The museum staff solicited multiple sponsors to assist in underwriting this year's event. Without the assistance of these sponsors, as well as the time put in by over 150 volunteers from across McLennan County, the event would not have been a success. Service organizations that provided at least ten volunteers for the event included the Junior League of Waco, University High School JROTC, National Charity League, Baylor University Habitat for Humanity and the Baylor University Museum Studies Student Association.



Planning is already underway for the 2009 Safe and Spooky Community Carnival, which will be held on the 24th of October in Chisholm Hall at the Waco Convention Center. The

decision was made to move the event to Chisholm Hall due to its large size and potential for housing additional vendors and activities, as well as reduce the potential for crowding.

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH WACO ISD.

Partners in Education: Waco ISD

Each year the Partners in Education Program brings businesses, organizations and community groups together with schools in a collaborative effort that enriches student learning. Through tutoring, mentoring, career awareness, job shadowing, presentation of life skills, math, science and literacy activities and a connection with strong, positive role models the students of Waco ISD benefit from a broad spectrum of knowledge and resources.

The museum staff is currently in talks with upper-level Waco ISD officials to become partner in education with Cesar Chavez Middle School. This particular school was targeted for a multitude of reasons, including diversity of students and interest level of teachers. The program is set to start sometime in the spring of 2009 and will include an in-class visit by a member of the museum staff as well as a field trip opportunity for the school.



OTHER EDUCATION COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES

- Assisted with the development of the 40th Anniversary exhibit, which opened on 1 November, 2008.
- Developed a Volunteer Management database in Microsoft Access and Past Perfect 4.0.
- Assumed daily management responsibilities of school tour and group bookings. Developed and implemented a group tour booking confirmation form that details group admission rates and general visitation policy.
- In the process of developing a summer camp program for scouts that includes programmatic materials from the surveying and C.S.I. interactive programs (currently offered to school groups).
- Worked with staff and board members to plan and develop an educational vision for the museum and the Texas Ranger Public Safety Education Center. The educational vision is an ongoing process that will be further developed following the completion of the center.
- Developed and submitted a proposal to State Representative “Doc” Anderson regarding the request to name the Education Center in honor of Captain Robert K. Mitchell.
- Attended regularly scheduled Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Advisory Board meetings and met with Education Committee chairperson Liz Taylor to discuss potential partnership opportunities with Waco ISD schools
- Submitted Phase I grant proposal for funding for the 2009 Safe and Spooky Community Carnival to the Rapoport Foundation (Waco).
- Hosted an evening event for the Texas Constable’s Leadership College (a one week session that was held at the Waco Hilton and conference center) .
- Began development of an extensive online set of classroom curricula for teacher use.
- Worked with other members of staff to reevaluate and conceptualize the museum’s master plan from an educational perspective.
- Developed an adult education program for travel groups wishing to visit the museum. The program incorporates many of the same themes as the school programs, but offers groups more flexibility as far as program length and content.

- In the process of redeveloping the educational pamphlet “Silver Stars and Six-guns: The Texas Rangers”; the education department receives many requests from school students and teachers for printed information to use in projects and reports.

SCHOOLS SERVED

St. Mary’s Catholic School (West)	Bishop T.K. Gorman Catholic School
Meadowbrook Baptist School	Garcia Elementary
North Waco Elementary	China Spring High School
Cedar Ridge Elementary	Vanguard College Prep
A&M Consolidated High School	Sam Houston Elementary
Mexia State School (D.A.D.S.)	Providence Heights Elementary
The Penelope School	Rapoport Academy
Tennison Middle School	Copperas Cove High School
Rockdale Elementary	Galveston Home School Co-op
Baylor University	Meridith-Dunbar Elementary
Walker Elementary PDS	Travis Middle School
Holy Ghost School (Houston)	University of Texas at Arlington
Weatherford Elementary	Texas State Technical College
Sante Fe Elementary (Cleburne)	Tarleton State Criminal Justice
Kingwood 1 st Baptist Church	Waco Montessori
Hill Country Home School Co-op	Kosse Middle School
McLennan County Home Schools	Angelina County Community College
Fairfield Jr. High School	Harker Heights Elementary
Allen Academy	Cesar Chavez Middle School
Chisholm Trail Middle School	Parkdale PDS
LaVine Academy	Normangee Middle School
St. Rita Catholic School	R.Q. Sims Intermediate School
Trinity Christian Academy	Goldthwaite Middle School