



September 2016

## Record 2015-2016 School Year for Delta Discovery



Students at the Nueces Delta Preserve learning to sketch.

The 2015-2016 numbers are in and the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program's (CBBEP) environmental education program, Delta Discovery, has had yet another record-breaking year! Seeing almost 10,000 formal students, 600 teachers, and over 1,000 others through various outreach events, the program is based at the Nueces Delta Preserve and offers classroom curriculum and on-site activities to introduce students and teachers in the Coastal Bend region to issues affecting the bays and estuaries, as well as the local ecology of the preserve. Engaging field experiences for all grade levels (PK-12) aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are available, and allow students and teachers to get 'mud between their toes' so to speak, by getting outside and connecting with nature through discovery based learning.

This year Delta Discovery was able to reach more students than ever before, but the most notable increase in attendance was at Delta Discovery teacher workshops. Almost 600 teachers earned Continued Professional Education (CPE) Credits and Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC) Credits, compared to 73 teachers last year. At the heart of it all is connecting classrooms to nature, and teacher workshops are key to providing teachers the tools they need to bring the outdoors and environmental education into their classrooms.

In addition to formal K-12 educational opportunities, pilot programs conducted last year included Nature Story Time and Family Picnic Days. Family Picnic Days allow students who have visited the Delta through a school field trip to bring their families, share what they've learned, and explore a little more. Nature Story Time targets children ages 2-5 and allows families to enjoy days at the Delta with nature-themed stories and other activities including nature walks, crafts, and/or live animals. Both of these programs are open to the public and will continue into next year, check the calendar and register at [www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org/events](http://www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org/events).



Having fun at Nature Story Time.

Delta Discovery is based at the 10,500 acre Nueces Delta Preserve, a diverse mosaic of highly productive coastal marshlands, wetlands, open water, islands, and upland prairie and bay shorelines. Located at the north end of Nueces Bay near Odem, Texas, the property protects a variety of habitats and is known for the quality of its conservation and land management practices. For more information about the Nueces Delta Preserve or Delta Discovery, visit [www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org](http://www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org).

[Register now](#) for the 2016-2017 school year and let our certified interpreters/educators lead your group to discover “the waters that touch the world.”



Photos: CBBEP File.

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries in the 12-county region of the Texas Coastal Bend. CBBEP is partially funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Kathryn Tunnell at (361)336-0304 or [ktunnell@cbbep.org](mailto:ktunnell@cbbep.org).

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