

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **East Foundation and the Witte Museum Seek Applicants for the 2022 Land Stewardship Ambassadors Cohort**

San Antonio, TX – August 25, 2021 – The Witte Museum has partnered with East Foundation to deploy our fourth cohort of Land Stewardship Ambassadors. This is a 10-week program which will raise awareness of land stewardship principles, promote civic engagement and inspire students to obtain careers that support land stewardship. Through interactive experiences, career exploration and the study of stewardship, the Land Stewardship Ambassadors Program (LSA) teaches students how to be a voice for Texas.

“We are excited to welcome our applicants and answer any questions they might have,” said Masi Mejia, educator for the East Foundation and LSA instructor. “This is a great program for anyone who has an interest in the environment, natural resources, veterinary science, and the outdoors. Every year we have great students who go on to do great things not only within natural resources, but other fields like medicine and accounting. Regardless of the field they choose, they become advocates for land stewardship.”

A cohort of 15 high school students will be selected in Bexar, Webb, and Cameron Counties. Students from outside these counties are encouraged to apply but should know the meetings will take place in-person and in a central location. The three cohorts will meet separately except for the two overnight trips at The Witte Museum and on the Foundation’s San Antonio Viejo Ranch.

Central meeting locations will be as follows: Bexar County cohort meets at the Witte Museum in San Antonio; the Cameron County cohort meets at Camp Rio at Historic Lula Sams in Brownsville; and Webb County cohort will meet at Falcon Bank in Laredo.

The application is now open and can be found at the link provided below. The application deadline will close November 1, 2021. This is a reading and writing intensive course. Semifinalists will participate in a Zoom Interview the week of November 8-12, 2021. Finalists will be notified November 15, 2021. On December 12, 2021, there will be a student-parent informational meeting to prepare for the Spring 2022 Semester.

At the end of the semester-long program, students give a presentation to their peers about a topic related to land stewardship and are awarded a \$400 stipend. The Land Stewardship Ambassadors program is proudly sponsored by Texas Farm Credit.

For more information on the Land Stewardship Ambassadors program, please contact Tina Buford, East Foundation Director of Education, at (956) 793-0785, or [tbuford@eastfoundation.net](mailto:tbuford@eastfoundation.net).

Application can be found at: <https://www.wittemuseum.org/land-stewardship-ambassadors/>

### **About the East Foundation**

The East Foundation promotes the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science, and education. We manage over 217,000 acres of native South Texas rangeland, operated as six separate ranches in Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, and Willacy counties. The lands were bestowed to the Foundation through the generous gift of the East family in 2007. To honor their legacy, we uphold their vision and values that were established more than a century ago.

### **About Witte Museum**

Founded in 1926, the Witte Museum is where Nature, Science and Culture Meet, through the lens of Texas Deep Time, and the themes of Land, Water, Sky. Located on the banks of the San Antonio River in Brackenridge Park, the Witte Museum inspires people to shape the future of Texas through transformative and relevant experiences in nature, science, and culture.

### **About Texas Farm Credit**

Texas Farm Credit is an agricultural lending cooperative that provides competitive rates, flexible terms, and personal service to farmers, ranchers, rural residents, and agribusiness firms from the Red River to the Rio Grande Valley. Not only does Texas Farm Credit finance a wide range of farming and ranching operations, it also offers home and rural real estate mortgage loans, as well as provides a variety of insurance services to its members. Headquartered in Robstown, Texas, the lending co-op serves 100 Texas counties and is part of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of rural lending co-ops established in 1916.

For more information on our work, visit [www.eastfoundation.net](http://www.eastfoundation.net).

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