



By Miles Phillips
mphillips@tamu.edu
Phone 979-845-1023

Professional Wildlife Guides

Improving the Visitor Experience,
Understanding and Conservation!





Wildlife Guide Training Program

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is providing this educational program as part of the nature tourism program. <http://naturetourism.tamu.edu>

The public relies on the professional Wildlife & Adventure Guides & Outfitters to help them have the best outdoor experience possible.



Wildlife Guide Training Program

- Travelers look to the professionals for information about the natural environment, where to see, hunt and catch the wildlife of the season.
- Tourists listen to advice on which hotels and lodges to use and can help increase the demand for outdoor experiences and lodging.
- Tourists like to experience and learn about the area history, culture and heritage.



Wildlife Guide Training Program

- This program is meant to;
 - provide additional recognition for experienced guides,
 - expand information and training for all guides,
 - help local tourism organizations enhance professionalism and quality of guided wildlife experiences.



Wildlife Guide Training Program

This program is meant to;

- Increase the traveler awareness and demand for wildlife and adventure guides and outfitters
- Assist professional guides to differentiate themselves from non-professionals through Extension guide education, training and third party certification.



Wildlife Guide Training Program

The public will find it easier to find a professional guide and better understand the value and benefits of hiring a professional guide.

Professional guides will be better able to communicate the importance of high quality management and conservation of our natural resources, wildlife habitat and the heritage and culture of the outdoor lifestyle.



Wildlife Guide Training Program

This material has been developed for the State of Texas with follow up courses addressing specific wildlife, plants, history, culture and organizations for local regions of the State .

Much of the material is relevant to other regions of the US.



Wildlife Guide Training Program

- The program involves guide training in online courses and live workshops.
- The program provides content related to most outdoor nature and wildlife recreation guide services.



Wildlife Guide Training Program

- The program was first developed in 2009 has been revised and expanded.
- It now involves a two part online program and supplemental workshops



Wildlife Guide Training Program

- Part 1 addresses statewide wildlife and business content that are universal to guide operations.
- Part 2 presents information specific to a local region of Texas. The first region to come online is the Texas Coastal Bend
- *We can customize to any state or location!*



Wildlife Guide Training Program

- Customized live workshops can be provided for face to face interactive training and in the field training.
- Just put in a request to get things started.



Wildlife Guide Training Program

Guides are expected to have a basic understanding of:

- Wildlife and plant species of the area.
- Tourism industry terms and organizations
- Small business management
- Customer Service
- Interpretation
- Local ecosystems and resource management issues
- Local history and culture



Wildlife Guide Training Program



A Part of the Cooperative Extension System

[Home](#) ► [Courses](#) ► [Search](#) ► [wildlife guide](#)

NAVIGATION



[Home](#)

[Site news](#)

► [Courses](#)

Search courses:

[Go](#)

Search results: 2

Wildlife Guide Training Part 1

Teacher: Miles Phillips

Wildlife Guide Training Part 1 is an online portion of a guide training by the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Nature Tourism Program. This online course is a self-directed/blended course designed for professional outdoor guides: fishing, hunting, birding, kayaking, adventure, ecotourism, agritourism, heritage etc. Participants will gain knowledge of regionally specific wildlife species, ecosystem and conservation management skills, tourism industry processes and nature tourism business skills.

This course is Part 1 of a Two Part online program. Wildlife Guide Training Part 2 presents information specific to a local region of Texas.

Based on completion of both part 1 and part 2 guides may obtain Certification and Marketing Services from their local tourism and guide organizations.

For more information or to arrange a local customized workshop and/or to develop customized Part 2 online course for your region or group, please contact Miles Phillips, Texas Agrilife Extension, at mdphillips@ag.tamu.edu or 979-845-1023 or visit <http://naturetourism.tamu.edu>

Category: [Agriculture & Animals](#)

Wildlife Guide Training Part 2

Part 1 Table of Contents

► **Start Here**

► **Introduction & Course Description**

► **Species Identification and Features**

► **Learning Quizzes**

► **Economic Aspects of Wildlife Management**

► **Wildlife Habitat Management**

► **Environmental Systems**

► **Texas State Symbols**

► **Customer Service Techniques**

► **Interpretation Techniques**

► **Final Tests**

► **Wildlife Regulations**

► **References**

► **Glossary**

► **Certificate**

Part 2 Table of Contents

► **Start Here**

► **Introduction & Course Description**

► **Local and Regional Species Identification**

► **Learning Quizzes**

► **Historical and Cultural Aspects**

► **Local Tourism Industry**

► **Final Tests**

► **References**

► **Glossary**

► **Certificate**



Wildlife Guide Training Program Part 1

Learn to identify approximately 86 species of wildlife within Texas.

These species were identified as species that represent the fauna and flora of Texas.

1. Botany (plants)
2. Entomology (insects and arachnids)
3. Herpetology (reptiles and amphibians)
4. Ichthyology (marine and freshwater fish species)
5. Ornithology (birds)
6. Mammals (small and large)
7. Tracks and Signs



Wildlife Guide Training Program Part 2

- You will learn to identify approximately 178 species of fauna and flora of the Coastal Bend region.
- The Learning quizzes are an interactive way to learn the wildlife species. You will be able to retake them as many times as you like.
- The Final Quizzes will be used for confirmation of your knowledge and will only be able to be taken once without a reset by the instructor.
- These species were identified as species that represent the fauna and flora of the region.

Example of Learning Quiz Question



Archosargus probatocephalus is the scientific name of this species.

What is its common name?

- **Average length:** 14-18 inches, although may get up to 30 inches
- **Habitat:** Young live in shallow, grassy areas; Adults live near pilings and rocks where their strong incisor teeth are used to good advantage to graze barnacles and small shell fish.
- **Distinguishing characteristics:** the jutting teeth are said to resemble human teeth; also note the single dorsal fin with sharp spines

Answer:



Check

Congratulations!

There are many valid common names used for wildlife that are specific to each location & culture. In order to fairly evaluate guide knowledge and provide a common name that all guides and clients can utilize, a single common name per species has been selected for the final quiz.

Sheepshead is the common name that will be used on the final quiz.

Reference: *Texas Parks and Wildlife*

The correct answer is: Sheepshead

Example of Final Test Question

Water Fishes

Question 5

Not yet answered

Points out of 1.00

Flag question



What is the common name?

▼

Striped Mullet
Black Drum
Gulf Menhaden
Atlantic Croaker
Gulf Flounder
Pompano
Lemon Shark
Great Hammerhead Shark
Gag Grouper
Skipjack Tuna
King Mackerel
Spotted Sea Trout
Sheepshead
Red Drum
Atlantic Stingray
Jack Crevalle
Sailfish
Cory Triggerfish

Next



(c) 2015 eXtension. All rights reserved | [partners](#) | [privacy](#) | [contact us](#) |

You are logged in as [Miles Phillips: Student](#) (Return to my profile)
WGT Part 2

This has been a partial overview of the Wildlife Guide Training Program

For more information please contact:

- Miles Phillips, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
 - <http://naturetourism.tamu.edu>
- Phone: 979-845-1023, Email: mphillips@tamu.edu



Nature Tourism Development