



26th Annual
Fossil Fest

Dear Area Educator,

What's in your backyard?

The Paleontological Society of Austin (PSoA) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and we, along with our UT advisors, study and seek to understand what the climates and environments of our area were like in the past and what life existed in those environments. Once a year we hold a show called Fossil Fest to display and share what we have learned with the public. The 26th Annual Fossil Fest will be held **November 19 & 20, 2016**, Saturday & Sunday from 9am to 5pm at Old Settlers Association, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, TX (on Highway 79 next to the Dell Diamond).

Our show theme, "What's in your backyard? Prehistoric Sharks," seeks to explore and answer that question by focusing on the geologic history of Texas as told by the rock layers beneath our feet and the fossils they contain.

This is an engaging earth science educational opportunity!

Enrich your students earth science proficiency with our unique hands-on activities including a "Paleo Passport" educational quest (TEKS aligned for Pre-K/K and 1st-8th grade), touch table and microscope with a large selection of fossils available for hands-on examination as well as a Fossil Dig Pit and Wheel of Fossils. More info on this engaging earth science educational opportunity may be found at www.austinpaleo.org/fest.

Extra Credit in lieu of fieldtrip!

Due to ever-shrinking educational budgets and time constraints to cover curriculum for standardized tests, student fieldtrips have gone the way of the dinosaur. For several years we piloted a program providing students an engaging earth science opportunity, similar to that of a fieldtrip, to bridge the gap. Encouraging your students' attendance at Fossil Fest and giving them **extra credit** for it enables them to receive a hands on educational experience without all the hassle and expense!

"How do I sign up?" It's easy – just print or point your students to our show flyer at www.austinpaleo.org/fest. Any student that attends will be asked to provide *your* information (district, school, grade level and teacher) upon admission. Proof of your student's attendance is a completed "Paleo Passport" brought back to school the following week. This no-hassle reinvention of the fieldtrip has proven successful and is available to all area schools and teachers! We cordially invite you and your students to experience this unique educational opportunity. As a thank you for participating, we'll send the first student who signs in from your class back to school with a "**Teacher's Kit**" of high quality and scientifically labeled fossil specimens for your classroom.

If your students return to school with "Paleo Passports," but no "Teacher's Kit" for you, please let us know by sending email to showchair@austinpaleo.org and we will deliver one to you.

Show highlights:

- Show Spotlight: Prehistoric Sharks
- Guest Speaker: “Fossils Talk – Hear their Stories”
- Opportunity to interact one on one with UT scientists, science educators and knowledgeable PSoA members – hands-on learning & demos, questions & answers and fossil identification
- “Paleo Passport” educational quest to fully explore displays, exhibits and activities
- Hands-on Fossil Touch Table and Microscope
- Educational Exhibits: See what amateur fossil collectors in Texas find
- Start your own fossil collection at the Wheel of Fossils and Fossil Dig Pit
- Fossils / Minerals / Books / Gifts / Jewelry / Toys...
- Hourly and Grand Door Prizes

We provide special Fieldtrip Admission for school groups of 10 or more: \$1.00/person for Group & Sponsoring Teacher who Pre-Register at www.austinpaleo.org/signup. You must Pre-Register to obtain this special rate!

Additional parents, siblings, friends and smaller groups will be charged full Admission \$3.00 per adult, \$2.00 per student and children under 6 free.

More information, including **TEKS Correlations** may be found on our website at www.austinpaleo.org/fest. Check our website periodically for updates and the final Activity Schedule one week prior to show.

For additional information, flyers or any questions you might have, please feel free to contact me.

Appreciatively,

Suzanne Galligher

VP/Show Chair

Paleontological Society of Austin

email: showcomm@austinpaleo.org