



27<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Fossil Fest**

November 4 & 5, 2017  
Saturday & Sunday, 9am to 5pm

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 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Fest is scheduled for **November 4 & 5, 2017** at Old Settlers Association Headquarters, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd., in Round Rock, TX (on Highway 79 next to the Dell Diamond). The show is open on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Our show theme, “What’s in your backyard? Dinosaurs!” 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 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade). The “Paleo Passport” questions have been formatted to incorporate science process skill standards supporting scientific reasoning. Students complete data charts, manipulate data, and gather information from different sources while learning about fossils. Additional activities include a 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](http://www.austinpaleo.org/fest).

*Credit without the fieldtrip!*

For the past several years we piloted a program providing students with learning opportunities, similar to those received from a fieldtrip, without all the hassle and expense. The solution is to encourage your students, along with their parents, to attend Fossil Fest and earn **extra credit** in the process! It’s easy – just print or point your students to our show flyer at [www.austinpaleo.org/fest](http://www.austinpaleo.org/fest). Any students that attend will be asked to provide *your* information (district, school, grade level and teacher) at the entrance. Proof of your student’s attendance is a completed “Paleo Passport” brought back to school the following week for **extra credit**. 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 your participation, we’ll send one of your students back to school with a “Teacher Kit” full of high quality and scientifically labeled fossil specimens for your classroom. Please email [showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org) with questions or additional requests.

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P.O. Box 90791, Austin, TX 78709-0791



[www.facebook.com/austinpaleo](http://www.facebook.com/austinpaleo)

[www.austinpaleo.org](http://www.austinpaleo.org)

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Show highlights:

- **Spotlight: What's in your backyard?**
- **Opportunity to interact one on one with a UT scientist, science educators and knowledgeable PSoA members – hands-on learning & demos, questions & answers and fossil identification**
- **Guest Speaker: “Fossils Talk – Hear their Stories” An engaging prehistoric animal fossil talk culminating in a dinosaur's final word on “lunch!”**
- **Mini-workshops: Learn how plants & animals fossilize and make & take your own fossil imprint**
- **“Paleo Passport” educational quest to fully explore demos, exhibits and activities**
- **Hands-on Fossil Touch Table and Microscope**
- **Educational Exhibits and Displays: See what amateur fossil collectors in Texas find**
- **Start your own fossil collection at the Wheel of Fossils and Fossil Dig Pit – 25 cents each**
- **Fossils / Minerals / Books / Gifts / Jewelry / Toys... priced 25 cents and up**
- **Hourly and Grand Door Prizes**

**Youth Group Fieldtrip Admission (schools / scouts / other youth groups): \$1.00/person for School Groups & Sponsoring Teacher who Pre-Register at [www.austinpaleo.org/signup](http://www.austinpaleo.org/signup).**

Additional parents, siblings, friends and those participating in the Extra Credit program will be charged full Admission: \$3.00 per adult, \$2.00 per student and children under 6 free.

**TEKS Correlations to the “Paleo Passport”** and more detailed information about Fossil Fest may be found on our website at [www.austinpaleo.org/fest](http://www.austinpaleo.org/fest). Check our website periodically for updates and the final Activity Schedule.

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

Sincerely,

Emelia Rose

VP/Show Chair

Paleontological Society of Austin

email: [showchair@austinpaleo.org](mailto:showchair@austinpaleo.org)

website: [www.austinpaleo.org](http://www.austinpaleo.org)

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