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Land Stewardship Ambassadors educational program visits the San Antonio Viejo Ranch

San Antonio, TX – May 11, 2021 – East Foundation and the Witte Museum last weekend hosted 38 high school students from the Land Stewardship Ambassadors educational program at the San Antonio Viejo Ranch. Engaging in discussions and participating in hands on experiences at the ranch, students completed the capstone weekend by learning from respected professionals representing multiple land and natural resources management disciplines.

“Having the opportunity to bring students onto a working ranch at the end of their 10-week course allows us to place an exclamation point behind everything they learned. Seeing firsthand how the land and wildlife respond to land stewardship principles validates the course curriculum,” said Tina Buford, East Foundation’s Director of Education.

The Land Stewardship Ambassadors program increases awareness of land stewardship principles, promotes civil engagement in today’s youth and inspires students to obtain careers that support land stewardship. Three cohorts of 15 students were selected from Bexar, Cameron and Webb counties to complete assignments and participate in two-hour sessions each week that explore topics such as the principals of wildlife management, managing our watersheds, human dimensions of land stewardship, the economic engine of natural resource management and the importance of gender and ethnic diversity within the outdoor and natural resource industries.

“We are so proud of this year’s class of Land Stewardship Ambassadors. They have really committed themselves to learning about the benefits of land stewardship and how they will apply these principals to their own lives,” said Helen Holdsworth, Chief of Engagement at the Witte Museum.

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.

“Our passion for Texas and her natural resources is matched only by our desire to cultivate future conservationists and community leaders. It is our absolute honor to support a program that makes such an impact on that mission,” says Jolene Curtis, Chief Operating Officer from 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.

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.

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