

**Texas Earth Science Teachers Association
Caverns of Sonora - Spring Conference
April 9 - 11, 2010**

Housing: Days Inn - Devil's River - Sonora, Texas
Check in - Friday - April 9, 2010 - late arrival
Check out - Sunday, April 11, 2010

Friday - April 9, 2010

3:00 - 5:00 TESTA Conference Planners - Caverns of Sonora/Set-up
6:00 - ? Board of Directors Meeting and Dinner - Texas Room
3:00 - ? Conference Participants - hotel check-in/welcome bag.

Saturday - April 10, 2010

7:00 - 7:45 AM - Breakfast - Texas/Ross Rooms -
8:00 AM Leave for Caverns - carpool
8:30 - 10:45 AM Session I
11:00 - 12:45 PM Session II
12:45 - 1:15 Lunch - Sandwich, chips, cookies, drink
1:30 - 3:15 PM Session III
3:30 - 5:15 PM Session IV
5:30 PM Leave - Return to Days Inn
7:30 PM Dinner - Sutton County Steakhouse
Program?

Sunday - April 11, 2010

7:30 - 8:15 - Breakfast - Texas Room (also check-out)

8:30 - **Options:**

- Relative Dating - focus - Steno's laws, Geologic Puzzles, Road Cuts. (Texas Room)
- Collecting, viewing and photographing road cuts between Sonora and Junction or close by locations.
- Eaton Hall Wildlife Sanctuary? - free.
- 5th Session back at Caverns (will need to develop)?
- Optional Activities?

Saturday Sessions: All will run concurrently, total of four presentations 1:45 to 2 hours.

- A. **Cavern Tour** - focus - formation, conservation, photos, tour.
- B. **Underground Classroom** - focus - slide show, fossils, paleontology
- fossil formation, types
 - Flinn Fossil Kits - classifying, drawing, geologic time **(TESTA Developed)**
 - Texas Geology Map **(Purchase?)**
- C. **Orienteering** - focus - compass reading, map reading, pacing. (Caverns)
- GPS Technology and uses **(TESTA Developed)**
 - Geocaching **(TESTA Developed)**
 - Topographic Mapping Activity **(TESTA Developed)**
- D. **Hydrology** - focus - groundwater and aquifers **(TESTA Developed Session)**
- Water Testing - using test kits, comparing cavern, well, and surface water.
 - Aquifers of Texas - major aquifers, recharge zones, subsidence, etc.
 - Watersheds - Activity, Model - Holly Aherns?
 - Conservation - switch from ground to surface water, water pollution, etc.

Optional Activities: Time - Sunday morning?

- **Discovery Challenge** - Off trail caving and rappelling. (Maximum of 8 people - 4 hours) - \$125.00 per person
- **Single Rope Technique and Cave Safety** - Ascending/climbing - \$7.00 per person.

Conference Logistics:

1. Registration - Kathryn
 - A. Registration
 - B. Room Assignments
 - C. Confirmation Letter with Map
 - D. Coordinating with venues

2. Welcome Kits - TESTA - _____
 - A. Bag - what to use?
 - B. Conference Agenda
 - C. Attendees List/Room Assignments
 - D. Meal Vouchers?
 - E. Drink & Snack for room

3. Caverns of Sonora Tour - Cavern Staff - no food or drinks on tour.
Cameras only!

4. Underground Classroom - Cavern Staff & TESTA - _____
 - A. Cavern Formation
 - B. Preservation
 - C. History of caverns
 - D. Fossils - (Activity/Lesson) - Flinn Fossil Kits - FBIISD - Dulles Middle School.

NOTE: need ice chest with bottled water for classroom.

5. Mapping - Cavern Staff & TESTA - _____
 - A. Orienteering Course
 - B. Compass Reading
 - C. Map Reading
 - D. Pacing
 - E. Geo-caching
 - F. Topographic Maps (Activity/Lesson)

6. Hydrology - TESTA - _____
 - A. Aquifers of Texas - Speaker & Activity/Lesson?
 - B. Water Testing
 - C. Watersheds - Activity/Lesson

- D. Groundwater Model - FBISD
- E. Watershed Model - Ward's demo? -

7. **Geology (Sunday morning) - TESTA - _____**

- A. Geology of Texas Map
- B. Relative Dating/Steno's Laws- Activity/Lesson
- C. Road Cuts
- D. Fossil Collecting -

8. **Lunch - Caverns - TESTA organize - _____**

- A. Breads
- B. Meats
- C. Cheeses
- D. Condiments
- E. Chips
- F. Cookies
- G. Drinks
- H. Plates & Napkins

9. **Saturday Night Program/Speaker/Entertainment?**

Costing: \$150.00 conference fee.

Housing: \$58.50 per night at hotel - double/double, including City Tax. State Tax Exempt Form. Total - 58.50 per person for two nights.

Meals: Sutton County Steakhouse (cost quoted by restaurant)

Saturday Breakfast - April 10th - 7:00 - 7:45 AM (come and go during that time frame) - a substantial continental breakfast (nice selection of sweet rolls/biscuits, fruit, juices, coffee, tea, etc.) **\$7.50 per person including gratuity**

Saturday Evening Dinner: Onion Rings (appetizer), Small Steak Bites or 8 oz sirloin or Grilled Chicken Tenders, choice of potato, salad, rolls, dessert, and tea - **\$16.50 per person including gratuity.**

Sunday Breakfast - April 11th - 7:30 - 8:15 AM (come and go/check out) - Full breakfast - Meat, eggs, hash browns (?), biscuits/toast, maybe some fruit, juice/coffee/tea. - **\$9.50 per person including gratuity.**

Saturday Lunch - **Caverns of Sonora** - Sandwich (build your own), chips, cookies, drink - \$5.00 per person allocated. (TESTA catered lunch).

Additional Conference Costs - (per person)

- Caverns Tour - \$16.00 (paid to caverns)
- Underground Classroom - \$7.00 (paid to caverns)
- Orienteering Course - \$3.00 (paid to caverns)
- Hydrology - TESTA developed - \$3.00 allocated
- Geology of Texas Map - \$8.00 (Bureau of Economic Geology)
- Copies / CD of Materials and handouts - \$5.00 allocated
- Program/Speaker - Saturday night - \$5.00 allocated
- Miscellaneous (water, welcome bag, etc.) - \$5.00 allocated

Total Cost (per person) - \$149.00. (Based upon above data)

Sponsors/Underwriters?

Flinn - Fossil Kits - donation for door prize?

Wards/Sargent Welch - Watershed Model, Water Test Kits?

Geology of Texas Maps?