

## Educational Outreach on Native Landscapes

Education staff at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center of The University of Texas at Austin teach educators nationally and locally about connecting audiences to nature and guide learning experiences for Center visitors.

Nationally, they have reached thousands of children from Alaska to Florida as the trainers of educators in First Bloom, a project of the National Park Foundation to connect urban children to national parks. Since 1997, park rangers, youth leaders at Boys & Girls Clubs, and others have participated in hands-on training the Wildflower Center education staff has provided to help them guide fourth, fifth and sixth graders in developing gardens in nearly 30 national parks.

In Austin, education staff led more than 300 school tours annually, and they provide [low-cost family events](#) to help young children connect to Texas' plants and animals. They also provide [adult education classes](#) on environmentally sustainable gardening practices and other topics. For Central Texas school teachers in K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, Center education staff conduct [field trips](#) on site and teach how to incorporate botanical and ecological lessons that align with Texas testing requirements into learning experiences.

