

Roving Learners an Introduction

Imagine a van, full of various aged kids, traveling to different places throughout Central Texas. They visit museums, libraries, farms, ranches, etc focusing on new topics each day. Kids learn skills relating to activities such as; rock climbing, snorkeling, bicycling/bike mechanics and hiking.

They keep an online or paper journal each day, describing where they went, what they did and what they learned. Math, writing and reading is differentiated to ensure each child is



successful and continue to develop their skills in a self-paced manner, so that they can easily transfer to another school in the future.

The real learning comes as they put their skills to use on the various projects. On a rainy day, they may venture into the library to stay dry and get some writing done. Though no homework is assigned, kids are expected to have some prior knowledge of where they visit each day.

There is a monthly schedule of daily activities. Parents can and are encouraged to join the excursions. Kids bring lunches (low sugar, water - not soda) from home. The Roving Learners is a 5 day a week program that follows [AISD schedule](#), including a four day a week summer schedule, for a total of 212 school days.

A Day with the Roving Learners

On Wednesday, kids are dropped off at the home base (405 academy 78704) between 8:45 and 9:00. By 10:00, after discussing the day and any other issues, the kids load up. They have a pack with a tablet/laptop, lunch, water bottle, math workbook (on their grade level), notebook, pens and pencil. As they drive to the destination of the day, McKinney Falls, John talks to them about the place and reviews expectations. They still have time to get some work done in the math book before arrival.

They pull into McKinney Falls State Park. Everyone makes sure their bags are packed for the day. The group hikes the trails while learning about the plants, trees and wildlife. They also visit historical landmarks and look for flakes from stone tools.

The Roving Learners find a comfortable place to eat lunch; also serving as time to discuss some reflections, thoughts and questions about the hike. They also have time to chat about post lunch activities.

Following lunch, the Rovers may explore Onion Creek, look for edible plants, search for artifacts or fossils. They can use field guides and Google searches to identify and learn about things they find. John discusses with them the importance of leaving no trace; meaning, pack it in - pack it out, leave artifacts where you find them, pick up litter and generally minimizing the impact the group has at McKinney Falls.

At 2:00 the group loads up in the van and head to the home base. On the way back, kids review their day and discuss interesting things they saw or learned. Between 2:45 and 3:00, kids are picked up. Shortly after 3:00, John will take Rovers to after-care as needed.

Curriculum

- [Khan Academy](#) is used by the older students to work with math skills
- Reading and writing will be incorporated in daily activities
- Science and Social Studies are incorporated through visits to museums, libraries and tied to various activities
- Gardening – Roving Learners tend their garden, learning how to grow veggies and flowers.

Tuition and Fees

- 2018-2019 (AISD Calendar)
 - \$10,000/year
- Annual fees to cover gas & entrance fees
 - \$ 800 per year
- Non-refundable Deposit
 - \$500 (applied to May payment)
- Part time
 - 1 day a week \$100/week
 - 2 days a week \$600/month
 - 3 days a week \$800/month
- Summer
 - \$275 weekly sign up
 - \$1000 monthly sign up



Calendar

Follow AISD Calendar

First Day August 20, 2018

Last Day (Trad Sch Year) May 24, 2019

Summer, 4 days a week

Summer breaks at:

- May 27-31
- July 1-5
- Aug 12-16

Mission Statement

Roving Learners is an alternative educational format that uses best practices in project based, experiential and social emotional learning to develop 21st century skills within a safe community. The goal is to use current research to ignite an enthusiasm in learning and foster the confidence to execute a creative concept, while ensuring academic skills are honed.



Excursions in Fall 2018

- Big Stacy Pool
- HEB
- McKinney Falls
- Oakwood Cemetery
- Central Library
- Barton Creek Hike/Bike Trail
- Barton Springs Pool
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- Great Outdoors
- Boggy Creek Farm
- Springdale Farm
- Pioneer Farms
- Moving a house
- Austin Nature & Science Center
- Bullet Cave and rock shelters at Barton Creek Trail
- Richard Moya Park
- Mi Madres Restaurant
- Dinosaur Tracks on the South Fork of the San Gabriel River
- Texas Memorial Museum
- University Federal Credit Union
- Central Market
- Tax Assessor Review Board
- Voting in mid-term election
- Travis County Court House

Roving Learners

A Traveling,
Experiential Learning,
Hands-On School
For Ages 5-15



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