

BioBlitz Risk Management Plan  
DRAFT April 2008

Background:

BioBlitz is sponsored by the Student Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology of Texas A&M University. It is scheduled near the last weekend of March or the first weekend of April and extends from midday Friday to dark on Saturday.

Purpose:

BioBlitz is a venue for the public to participate in hands-on events that involve the nature and biodiversity of the local Brazos Valley. The site is usually located in a College Station park. Lick Creek Park is the present locale for BioBlitz.

The event covers a wide range of activities including nature walks, bird sighting walks, flower walks, and stationary displays of small animals. A walk-in Butterfly Tent is usually provided for close-up experience for the young children.

Night time activities involve nocturnal animal sights and sounds, black lighting of small animals and insects and star gazing studies

Risks:

The Risk Management Plan is created to cover all aspects of the Texas A&M University Student Chapter of the Society for the Conservation of Biology as well as non-student volunteers and invited public who are and will be, involved in the annual nature retreat – BioBlitz. BioBlitz for this year will take place at Lick Creek Park in College Station, TX.

The entire program, from arrival to departure as well as all of the scheduled activities, has been checked for any possible risks to those involved.

Although all spectrums of the public are invited, our primary objective is to draw to the site young students to be personally involved with the events. Understanding the responsibilities to insure a safe site for their comfort, a written risk management plan has been created. The potential risks and their prevention and solutions are listed below:

Injuries- Texas A&M University EMS Emergency Care Team will be located in the first-aid tent and will be in communication with the University Medical Center and College Station medical sites. They will be available to treat any minor injuries, such as scrapes, cuts, and bruises. They also will be able to treat minor sprains and twists. In the event of a major injury, the TAMU EMS should be able to take care of the patient and transport them from the area immediately to the nearest hospital.

Animal Encounters- There are many animals in the park, including poisonous snakes and medium-sized mammals that visitors may encounter. While this is highly unlikely due to the large amount of activity in the park, in the event that an encounter does occur and it results in a bite, TAMU EMS would be available to treat this as well, until the visitor could be safely transported to a hospital, if needed. Visitors will be advised to stay on the paths (unless on a survey) in order to prevent these encounters and also asked to report any encounter or sighting of

animals that may threaten other visitors. For those animals on display, they will be touched and handled only under close supervision by trained personnel.

Communication- In order to ensure the safety of the visitors, there will be multiple resources provided for communication in the event any accidents do occur. On the back of all of the volunteer's badges will be emergency contact information. Those volunteers leading surveys will have walky-talkies, radios, or cell phones to notify those back in the main area of any accidents that occur while out in the woods. Along the paths in between the main booths and areas will be mini-stations with volunteers that will be available to provide assistance as well.

Weather- In the event of severe weather, there will be shelter provided. If the weather becomes too severe, the event will be temporarily halted of all activities so that visitors may seek shelter.

Heat- There will be water provided in all the main areas as well as along the trail at the volunteer stations. TAMU EMS will be available to treat those suffering from dehydration or heat stroke.

Children- Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times to help prevent them from getting lost or injured. In the event a child or anyone does get lost, a search party will immediately be dispatched to find them.

Rest- There will be numerous seats and benches to rest on for the elderly and those who tire easily.

Alcohol and Drugs- There will be no alcohol or drugs allowed at this event. This is to help prevent any major incidents, and because the event is open to the public there will be numerous minors there that we will attempt to prevent from exposure to these substances.

Altercations- Altercations will not be tolerated and will be prevented as much as possible. Should an altercation occur, the individuals will be removed from the area and not invited to return.

KidBlitz- KidBlitz will be set aside and separated from the main area. The area will be closely monitored to aid in the security of the young children.

TAMU CARE Team contact: Joe – 848-525-5225

## **First Responders (Certified in First Aid and CPR):**

**Renee` Jones- (913)-485-2674**

**Michael Birt- (817)-676-5319**