



Heartbeat of the Hickory: Summer2018

Newsletter of the
Hickory Underground Water Conservation District No. 1

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4-H2O Leadership Academy 2018

The District was proud to sponsor Isaiah Losoya, son of Taunya Ruffin, to attend this year's 4-H Water Ambassador Camp. The 4-H2O Leadership Academy is an annual summer experience for high school students to learn more about all the various aspects of water in Texas. This year 29 students from 27 Texas counties attended the camp. For eight days the students and sponsors traveled approximately 2,000 miles stopping at 30 different locations for various presentations. They visited with water law attorneys, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), several groundwater conservation districts, San Antonio Water System H2Oaks Desalination Center, Caverns of Sonora, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Lake Buchanan Dam, and many more.

David Smith, Extension Program Specialist & Texas 4-H2O Program Coordinator, stated, "I am very pleased with the growth of the 4-H Water Ambassadors Program and the quality of youth we are attracting. 2017 marked the first year of the program and we had 16 youth participate. This year we added another 29 and I am looking forward to the great things they will accomplish over the next year. None of this would be possible without the generous sponsors, many of whom are groundwater conservation districts who see the value in investing in tomorrow's water leaders. As this program continues to grow it is important that we communicate the positive impact being made in communities throughout Texas."

Isaiah Losoya wrote:

"On July 13th I was given the great opportunity to attend the academy. My mother, Taunya Ruffin, signed me up for the program. We didn't know much about it. So, going into the camp, I had no idea what to expect. I thought I was going to be surrounded by strange kids and be stuck in boring water presentations. To my surprise, I learned more about water during this outrageously fun week, than I ever thought possible. There is so much to learn about water it is overwhelming, but it is DEFINITELY worth putting the time in to learn about it. Plus, I met some of the coolest people I've ever met in my life and made relationships that will last a lifetime!

There was so much information to take in during a seven-day period. Fortunately, most of it was fun. The rest of the water ambassadors and I had the opportunity to go to some fun places such as the Caverns of Sonora, Barton Springs, TCEQ, and countless other places. In a 7-day period, we traveled all around Texas and visited a minimum of 3 places a day. We visited towns like Austin, San Antonio, San Marcos, Menard, College Station, Burnet, Sonora, Lubbock, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Waco. There was a lot of subjects we covered about water such as Water Conservation, Water Laws, Water Rights, Water Cycle, Water Cleaning, Water Projects, Water Aquifers, and why the water industry is so important to our future.

The topic that catches my interest is water conservation. Advocating to my community about how important it is to save our water is really what I wanted to bring back from the program. From the first day we talked about it at camp, I knew that was going to be my goal whenever I came back home to Brady. I have many things planned for this upcoming year as a serving water ambassador, and I'm really looking forward to spreading what I have learned. I hope that I can influence other kids to pursue becoming a water ambassador and take the opportunity to be part of this amazing program."

If you know or are a student entering the 9th, 10th, or 11th grades for the 2019-2020 academic year, keep this program in mind. We'll start accepting applications in the spring. The District offers several scholarships to students who live in the area. For more information about the program visit any of the following links:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/water/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TX4HWaterAmbassador/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/4H2O_Ambassador

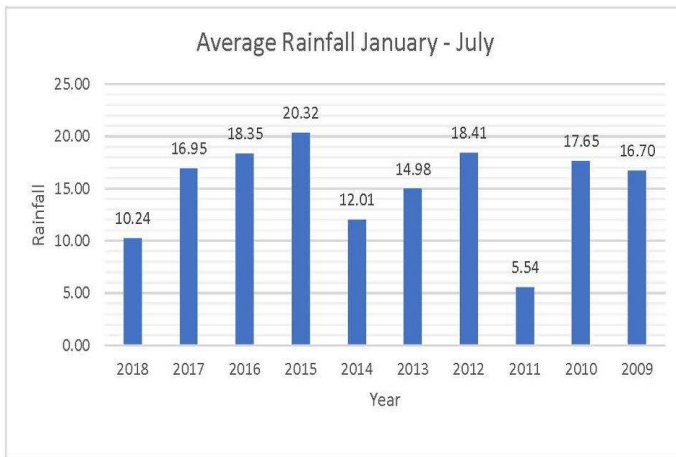
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/4h_water_ambassadors/

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCakZR9AYNLcAW6kgCemf2g?view_as=subscriber



Rainfall Totals from January through July from 2009-2018 (seven months)

Site	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Cherokee	11.76	18.38	16.04	19.17	17.55	16.64	20.42	5.07	19.12	18.64
Deer Creek	9.90	17.20	23.70	22.60	14.60	16.10	24.50	6.40	28.30	17.20
Eden	9.60	17.20	17.86	18.68	10.02	23.14	15.20	4.65	4.67	17.49
James River	10.20	15.60	13.94	18.85	12.29	13.00	21.38	4.65	23.53	12.92
Lohn	9.07	14.80	18.35	20.00	11.20	14.54	17.62	4.08	13.34	17.14
Masollan	7.06	15.46	15.02	17.88	8.01	14.98	18.73	6.25	21.58	15.45
Mason15w	14.29	17.00	17.51	17.74	11.79	11.39	15.67	5.50	5.50	15.07
Mason3nne	9.45	20.20	15.43	17.85	10.90	11.53	17.26	8.15	29.05	13.46
Melvin	10.67	15.13	16.34	15.59	10.49	13.57	14.55	5.11	20.44	13.40
Placid	12.02	17.70	21.67	34.44	14.80	18.01	20.95	5.19	5.19	19.85
Rochelle	8.77	20.75	19.25	32.42	11.84	14.07	18.38	2.62	17.68	19.74
San Saba River/Brady	10.74	19.44	22.28	16.49	14.22	14.73	15.40	7.92	17.40	17.26
South of Brady	11.40	13.59	19.20	15.47	9.56	14.01	15.33	4.28	17.56	19.04
Voca	8.42	14.81	20.34	17.23	10.87	14.01	22.36	7.63	23.80	17.07
AVERAGE	10.24	16.95	18.35	20.32	12.01	14.98	18.41	5.54	17.65	16.70



While we are certainly dry and need to conserve water, we are still doing better than we did in 2011. Nonetheless, we have endured several years of lower than average rainfall. We are currently in the process of measuring wells in the District, so stay tuned. The results will be posted on our website.



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