

Families come out to DPW's Earth Day Celebration

Hundreds stood in front of the stage staring at a five foot long Burmese python, as SeaWorld San Antonio discussed how conservation and recycling are important to animals and their habitats.



“SeaWorld San Antonio conveys a big message about conservation,” said Roberto Trejo, SeaWorld San Antonio’s Animal Ambassador. “SeaWorld’s goal is to educate children about how important they are to the impact on the environment.” Trejo and Angie Schindler, SeaWorld San Antonio’s Animal Ambassador took hundreds of people on a journey around the world. Families gathered around the stage to travel to Australia, South East Asia, Africa, and North America to learn about what they can do to help the wallabee, Burmese python, African millipedes, Southern ground hornbill, and American alligator. “What can you do to help

these animals?,” Schindler asked the crowd. “It’s as simple as recycling an aluminum can. Every time you throw away an aluminum can you are throwing away 3 hours of electricity that could be used to play on your PlayStation, computer, or watch television,” Schindler said.

“There are so many things you can do at your home to help out,” Schindler said. “SeaWorld encourages you to recycle, reduce, reuse, and conserve so that animals can be around for generations to come.”



“This year’s Earth Day was the best we ever had,” said Steve Burrow, DPW’s Chief of Environmental Programs. “The efforts of the Environmental Division and outreach made this event successful,” Burrow said. “What I have seen over the years is that young children are able to teach their parents how to recycle and how to do the right thing.”

Environmental organizations and divisions were at Fort Hood’s Earth Day celebration to pass out materials and increase environmental awareness.



The DPW’s Energy Division used a meter to show families how to save money and conserve electricity by using compact fluorescent light bulbs. “The meter measures the usage based on the revolutions,” said Emely Silva, DPW’s Environmental Support Services and Energy Sales Specialist. Veronic Cavazos and her children Marcelle Cavazos and Franciso Cavazos watched the number of

revolutions between a compact fluorescent light bulb and a regular incandescent light bulb. “The incandescent light bulb has more revolutions and uses more electricity which means more money is coming out of your wallet,” Silva said. “Wow! A 14 watt fluorescent light bulb can save me so much money in the long run,” Cavazos said. “My children and I came out to have fun and ended up learning a few things too about how to help the environment.”



Many people also learned a little more about Fort Hood’s drinking water and took the water challenge - is it bottled water or tap water? “I wanted to see if people would be able to distinguish the difference between bottled and tap water,” said Gary Goodman, DPW’s Drinking Water Quality Specialist. When people took the water challenge, 2/3 of people could not tell the difference between bottled and tap water. “Most people were surprised that tap water has stringent Environmental Protection Agency regulations and thought tap water would be of poor quality,” Goodman

said. “The whole intention of this challenge was to let people know that Fort Hood’s tap water can taste just as good as bottled water and it’s free!”



The Texas Forest Service, on behalf of the National Arbor Day Foundation, presented Fort Hood a plaque to recognize the installation as a Tree City USA. Fort Hood organized a Tree Board, signed an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation, and established a community tree ordinance. “Trees are important in our community because they provide shade, beauty, and wind protection,” said Laura Sanchez, DPW’s Natural Resources Agronomist. “Healthy trees are attractive and desired in our community.”

AAFES and the Clear Creek Commissary were important contributors to the success of Fort Hood’s Earth Day Event. “The turn out was phenomenal!,” said Timi Dutchuk, DPW’s Environmental Training Program Manager. “This year’s turn out was the best because of the support DPW Environmental has gotten from AAFES and the Clear Creek Commissary,” Dutchuk said. “It’s not just the donations they provided but also the moral support, personnel, and resources that helped make this event successful.”



-Christine Luciano

DPW Environmental Outreach Coordinator