

Texas Outdoors Woman Network – Rockport Chapter is a local non-profit organization which strives to provide all women the opportunity to experience outdoor activities in a safe, non-threatening and supportive environment. The "Women in the Wild" workshop is a T.O.W.N. Rockport event that helps accomplish the T.O.W.N. mission by offering women, members and non-members, an opportunity to learn new skills through an outdoor, all women weekend workshop.

"Women in the Wild" (WIW) is an annual outdoor oriented workshop that educates women and builds new skills encouraging future participation in outdoor recreation. "Women in the Wild" is also a Texas Game Warden Outreach event. This is the eighth year for the "Women in the Wild" event which is held in Rockport, Texas. Courses offered have included: shotgun shooting, archery, beginner fishing, advanced wade fishing, trailer backing, kayaking, boat equipment and operation, self-defense, intro to hunting, outdoor photography, stand up paddle boarding, game processing, geocaching and dutch oven cooking to name a few. All courses are hands on and allow the participants to test the new skills they are learning.

The first event hosted in April 2009 attracted 33 participants who learned about consumptive and non-consumptive outdoor activities. The second event in 2010 attracted nearly twice as many participants confirming the need for this workshop in the Coastal Bend area as well as for all of South Texas. Throughout the years our attendance has grown and over 100 women participate in this event every year.

Event attendees have traveled from across the state of Texas to attend the Women in the Wild event over the past few years. The majority of them traveling over 100 miles to participate in this weekend long event. Some of the locations the attendees have traveled from include: Waco, Gonzales, San Antonio, Austin, DFW, Houston, Victoria, Yoakum, Hallettsville and the Greater Coastal Bend Areas of Rockport, Port Aransas, Ingleside, Corpus Christi and Portland. Many of these attendees, over 80%, stay within the Rockport/Fulton area and sleep in area hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts and RV campgrounds. This influx of women helps the local economy as they eat, shop and lodge at local establishments while participating in this annual event.

This event is a non-profit event with any funding overage rolling forward into the next year's event. Starting in 2012 a \$500 scholarship has been awarded from WIW funds to a young woman graduating from high school in Rockport that demonstrates how being involved in the outdoors has shaped them as a women now and for the future. The scholarship is a way to give back to our community while encouraging young women to explore outdoor careers.

All sponsors and supporters are recognized throughout our event including special recognition during our dinner, at the closing of the event and in email blasts to our attendees. Any literature, coupons, flyers that you would like to provide we will include in our participant goodie bags as well. We want to thank you for considering donating to our organization and event.

If you know of a lady who would be interested in participating please have them contact us as we have a few spots open for participants. www.townrockport.org click WILD. Thank you again for your support!

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