



Neighborhood Habitat Challenge 2013 Guidelines

The Challenge

The City of Austin is challenging Austin neighborhoods to certify the most number of properties within their boundaries as wildlife habitats with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Meeting the criteria for certification by NWF is simple and will help your neighborhood in its effort to win the challenge and ensure that Austin maintains its status as a NWF certified Community Wildlife Habitat. The creation of wildlife habitats in our city benefits people, wildlife, and biodiversity.

Habitat Certification Criteria

Your property must provide wildlife with **food, water, cover, places to raise young and at least two sustainable gardening measures must be practiced.** Visit www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife for certification details.

Neighborhood Habitat Challenge Requirements

All participating neighborhoods must complete the following activities as part of the challenge:

- Neighborhood must register with Wildlife Austin upon initiating challenge. Registration form must be completed and submitted to be considered an official participating neighborhood. Visit website to download form www.keeptaustinwild.com.
- Neighbors certify the most number of wildlife habitats with NWF between April 15th and November 15th 2013.
- As a neighborhood group, participate in a community habitat related project such as removing invasive plants as part of an ongoing project, planting trees in a common area, restoring a creek area, planting a neighborhood butterfly garden or creating a schoolyard habitat. Contact Wildlife Austin for more information and/or project ideas.
- Publish an article about Neighborhood Habitat Challenge and gardening for wildlife in neighborhood newsletter and/or website. Submit article for documentation.
- Provide summary and documentation of challenge experience and community habitat project by November 15, 2013 deadline. More details on format and content to be provided upon registration.

Rules

- **Challenge begins March 15, 2013 and ends November 15, 2013.**
- All online and paper habitat certification applications must arrive by **November 15, 2013.**
- Participation is limited to Neighborhood Associations/Groups registered with City of Austin Community Registry <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/community-registry>.
- Only new NWF certified wildlife habitats count towards neighborhood's overall habitat numbers for this contest. Homes, schools, businesses, places of worship and common areas are all eligible for certification and will count equally for the neighborhood's overall habitat count.
- Contact person must be selected for all participating neighborhoods. Their role is to register neighborhood, lead and promote challenge and habitat project, and answer related questions.
- First, second and third place prizes will be awarded to the top three neighborhood associations/groups based on completion of challenge requirements and number of properties certified within neighborhood's boundaries during the contest period.
- All prizes are awarded at the discretion of the City of Austin.

Prizes

The top three neighborhoods that complete all requirements and certify the most new habitats between March 15th and November 15th 2013 will be recognized by the City of Austin and eligible for prizes. All winning neighborhoods will receive Council Proclamation, website recognition, and a certificate of merit.

More Information

Please contact the Wildlife **Austin Program: 512-978-2606** or wildlife@austintexas.gov