

# REPORT 2018 October Cycle

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Friends of the Cibolo Wilderness (dba Cibolo Nature Center)		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 74-2564700	
<b>Address:</b> 140 City Park Rd	<b>City:</b> Boerne	<b>State:</b> TX	<b>Zip Code:</b> 78006
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.cibolo.org/">http://www.cibolo.org/</a>		<b>Fax:</b> (830) 249-4616	

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Carolyn Chipman Evans	<b>Title:</b> Chief Executive Officer
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> carolyn@cibolo.org	<b>Phone:</b> (830) 331-8982

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Leigh Owen	<b>Title:</b> Director of Development	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> leigh@cibolo.org	<b>Phone:</b> (830) 331-8982
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## REPORT INFORMATION

<b>Report Funding Cycle:</b> 2018 October Cycle	<b>Report Date:</b> 08/26/2019 12:00 am
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**1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.**

Awarded Amount: 10,000	Date: 10/24/2018
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**2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.**

The Cibolo Nature Center & Farm encourages children to engage with hands-on learning experiences and indulge in the enjoyment of recreational time spent nature and the outdoors.

Highlights of the past year include strengthening our preschool programs, field trip opportunities for more underserved school districts, improving infrastructure to meet the needs of ever-growing programs, and hiring two new important staff members including Education Director, Laurie Brown, who was with the San Antonio Zoo for 12 years and a Chief Strategy Officer, Margaret Lamar, who recently designed early childhood efforts in 18 cities across the U.S. for the Children & Nature Network.

We continue to meet our goal to provide a "whole child" educational experience that contributes to the emotional, behavioral, and academic intelligence of the children we serve. We meet this goal through program delivery, evaluation and most importantly access. Thanks to the support of the Najim Family Foundation we are able to address the "nature deficit disorder" in children by providing an immersive and enriching outdoor learning experience for children who have little to no access or awareness of the natural world. The average child spends about 4-7 minutes outside per day and with these two-hour field trip experiences, the children are stimulating their minds and bodies in an environment they wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to experience.

Alignment with TEKS and re-certification with the Region 20 Service Center was also an important achievement this year to ensure all field trip participants receive lessons relevant to supplement classroom instruction.

**3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.**

We are pleased to report that field trip programs were on target to meet all goals and objectives in the 2018-2019 school year. During the last year we have additionally developed a specially tailored field trip program with the Roy Maas Youth Alternative students in the Meadowlands Charter School. It was an early pilot and recent developments with their faculty and staff should allow us to expand the program in the coming year. We look forward to sharing more in our upcoming application for support.

**4: What needs were addressed?**

It is well-documented that today's families struggle to lead active lifestyles, and the resulting effects are alarming. In Texas, 32% of children aged 10-17 are overweight or obese. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department is just one of several organizations reporting that children who spend time learning and playing outdoors tend to be healthier, more confident, and better students. Providing quality nature-based educational experiences for children and families of our region has become increasingly important with the rapid urbanization of our local and greater community. It is our goal each and every day to be a remedy to the "nature deficit disorder" plagued by modern children's disconnect with the outdoors and natural world. We feel successful in providing a nature immersive and hands-on learning experience that allows children to gain knowledge and soft skills not provided by a screen or within the four walls of a classroom. We strive to enhance the curriculum of today's schools with lessons that take the water cycle or parts of an insect from a worksheet to real life. Research studies have shown that the added benefit of nature-based learning is not only beneficial academically, but also in the social-emotional growth of a child. Although children from all socioeconomic levels may spend too much time in front of television or video screens instead of outdoors, this challenge is even greater for low income and underserved children, who may have fewer opportunities to explore and play in nature.

**5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?**

Each of our programs is evaluated through online and in-person surveys at its conclusion, geared toward children (or their parents, when appropriate) and volunteers who work with the children. This information, along with the tracked numbers of participants in each program, is analyzed by our professional education staff annually to help determine the next year's programs and is also reported bi-annually to our Board of Directors. Our staff and volunteers always invite and welcome anecdotal feedback at programs and events as appropriate. Online google surveys are sent to teachers and chaperones for field trip programs. For camp forms, we have found that asking each counselor to ask their parents on-site at the conclusion of the end of camp program is when and how we get our best response rate. Survey information is then manually entered by part-time staff for further evaluation and follow-up.

**6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?**

Yes, we plan to continue the project. The Cibolo Nature Center & Farm receives dedicated funding from corporations, foundations and individuals to support Children's Education programs. We charge a greatly subsidized \$6 per student for field trip programs, a monthly tuition for the Cibolo Nature School and camp tuition fees. We also assign a portion of earned income from special events, workshops, program and rental fees to support the Children's Programs budget.

**7: Please provide any other comments or information relevant to this grant.**

The Children's programs of the Cibolo Nature Center & Farm started at the inception of the organization 31 years ago. Since 2012 participation has grown more than 400%. The Outdoor Classroom field trip program started as a volunteer led session out of the back of our Founder and CEO's station wagon and has evolved into a sophisticated and highly customized program tailored to grade levels, state standards for education and teacher expectations. Because this endeavor is central to our mission, educating future stewards of our natural world will always be a priority for our organization. We work alongside funding partners, like the Najim Family Foundation, to maintain and keep programs like this sustained and accessible to more students throughout the region each year. With an invigoration of new talent on board, we look forward to more program enhancements in the coming year. There is less space for children to have an authentic experience in a natural setting and we are proud to have over 160-acres protected for children and families to experience for years to come.

**8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.**

<b>Line Item Description</b>	<b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b>	<b>Najim Requested Funds</b>	<b>Project Funds Actual</b>	<b>Najim Funds Allocation</b>
Program Expense (Scholarships & Transportation Assist)	\$35,523	\$20,000	\$34,549	\$10,000
Salary and Wages	\$191,426	\$0	\$168,011	\$0
Payroll Expense	\$17,082	\$0	\$14,188	\$0
Benefits	\$16,212	\$0	\$15,090	\$0
Supplies	\$16,150	\$0	\$10,509	\$0
Advertising & Promotion	\$31,538	\$0	\$24,738	\$0
Professional Fees	\$250	\$0	\$248	\$0
Finance Charges	\$3,558	\$0	\$4,057	\$0
Conference, Conventions, Mtgs	\$7,001	\$0	\$2,351	\$0
Travel	\$1,850	\$0	\$1,042	\$0
Insurance	\$1,000	\$0	\$850	\$0
Repairs & Maintenance	\$78,851	\$0	\$61,430	\$0
Volunteer Allocation Expense	\$14,443	\$0	\$13,916	\$0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$414,884</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$350,979</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

**Signature**

Leigh Owen