Princesses and Dragons: Trails & Treats 2016

As darkness falls on the Refuge, wildlife wake in search of items to consume. Fleets of armored nine-banded armadillo bulldoze through leaf litter in search of grubs. In the skies, owls launch aerial attacks for rodents and other forms of prey as they silently raid the forest floor. The sounds of yelping coyotes reverberate through the prairie as food has been located. For one
night, a new group of “wildlife” descended in search of items to consume in the form of candy treats. They certainly found treats along with a good time.

At the end of October, Nature Center staff hosted our 6th annual Trails & Treats Halloween event. The Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center provided ample resources for visitors to enjoy this family-friendly event. The evening was full of many activities. Children had the opportunity to hike along Limestone Ledge to gather their goodies. Voices of triumph echoed in the festival area with every successful attempt at one of the array of games. Astonished faces lit up the Hardwicke Interpretive Center as our guests learned about our education animals.

This year’s version of Trails & Treats can be summed up as a win for the Nature Center. Many participants shared their feedback with staff as they left. Accolades were given for all the activities. Multitudes of praise were offered to the staff and volunteers who worked diligently to make the event a success. Positive comments were received from members who know the Nature Center like the back of their hands to those who had no idea we existed. I am positive those who just discovered us will be back. That’s why Trails & Treats is a great event for the community. It allows us to introduce ourselves to a new audience. It is our sincere hope that they visit us, support us, and promote us even more.

Michael Perez, Education Manager