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## AMERICAN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Celebrating Action from Local to National

HOW-TO GUIDE

### Reviving Texas Grasslands Through Hands-on Community Education

[Prairie Restoration Crew, School - St. Mark's School of Texas](#)

*The group of students has rejuvenated over thirty native species - symbols of the rich biodiversity that once dominated Texas ecosystems - across the metroplex and are actively growing dozens more in their greenhouse.*

The work spans the entire process of rescue and restoration: They start by collecting seeds from remnant prairies across the state and propagating them in their greenhouse. Once they've grown, they organize large-scale planting events to return them to their ecosystem.

Alongside revitalizing the prairie, their goal is to make their project a community effort, focusing on education and collaboration. At schools and organizations, they are educating students on the vital role of prairies and species biodiversity.

To encourage participation, the student group highlights the importance of their work, offering volunteer hours. In 2024 alone, they logged nearly a thousand volunteer hours and engaged dozens of new members who had no previous climate-related experience.

To achieve success, they started a solid foundation, focusing on seed collection, plant cultivation, and planting events. They then created a website to promote education, showcase our work, and invite collaboration. As their initiative grows, so does its impact: not just on the land, but on the people involved. Through hands-on conservation, they're empowering and educating others while strengthening their collective connection to nature.

## Replicate This!

### How To Get Started

1. Involve students, staff, and community member volunteers in activities such as seed collection, greenhouse preparation, and planting events, targeting those who have never been previously involved in such efforts
2. Increase replicability by standardizing methodologies and practices across all volunteer networks
3. Actively support other schools in growing their prairies, gardens, and greenhouses by providing seeds and sharing essential restoration techniques
4. Collaborate with local environmental organizations, we've expanded our network and outreach