

Earth Day Texas – Summary Report
Submitted by Becca Hatheway (UCAR Center for Science Education)
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The exhibit area with the Center for Severe Weather Research's Doppler on Wheels and the UCAR Center for Science Education exhibit booth

The Center for Severe Weather Research (CSWR) jointly with the UCAR Center for Science Education (UCAR SciEd) participated in Earth Day Texas, a three-day event held in Dallas, TX, on April 21-23, 2017. The goal of this event was to expose Earth Day Texas attendees to cutting edge severe weather research and to inform students about opportunities to pursue careers in atmospheric research.

Over 100,000 people attended the Earth Day Texas event over the course of three days and approximately 3,000 people visited the experiences facilitated by CSWR and UCAR SciEd. These experiences included the Doppler on Wheels, a tornado pod, and a booth with hands-on activities and demos about severe weather. The CSWR group launched 3-4 weather balloons each day and gave tours of the Doppler on Wheels and associated facilities. The CSWR/UCAR SciEd exhibit area was among 900 other exhibits at this event.

On Friday, April 21st, approximately 5,000 K-12 students from the Dallas Independent School District attended the event, along with members of the general public. Groups of students toured the event with their school groups, and many of these groups spent time at the CSWR/UCAR SciEd exhibit area. On Saturday, April 22nd and Sunday, April 23rd, members of the public attended the event.

Earth Day Texas also includes lectures and panel presentations. This year there were 260 talks, and on Friday, April 21st, Tim Barnes (UCAR SciEd), Lisa Gardiner (UCAR SciEd), Karen Kosiba (CSWR), and Josh Wurman (CSWR) gave a talk called *Atmospheric Findings*, sharing photos and information about severe weather research.

The event was promoted on social media and in local press in the Dallas metro area. After the event, Lisa Gardiner from UCAR SciEd published a blog post about the event, highlighting what visitors experienced at the CSWR/UCAR SciEd area: <https://scied.ucar.edu/blog/fear-and-awe-storms-earth-day-texas>.

In summary, partners from both organizations agreed that the event was a worthwhile undertaking and increased public understanding of severe weather research, weather phenomena, and how severe weather impacts people and their environments. The Doppler on Wheels was a big draw and attracted a lot of attention from event attendees.



A student launching a weather balloon



Students learning about the Doppler on Wheels



Students engaging with hands-on activities about severe weather



Children engaging in a hands-on activity about severe weather

Table 1: Earth Day Texas Participants

Name	Organization	Role
Tim Barnes	UCAR SciEd	Outreach Specialist
Eileen Carpenter	UCAR SciEd	Outreach Specialist
Lisa Gardiner	UCAR SciEd	Science Educator
Allycia Gilliland	CSWR	Technician
Becca Hatheway	UCAR SciEd	Science Educator
Karen Kosiba	CSWR	Scientist
Josh Wurman	CSWR	Scientist