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## Local Author-Illustrator Team Publishes Austin Guide Especially for Kids

*"Expedition Austin: A Kid's Guide to the Weirdest Town in Texas"  
Is a Full-Color Family Adventure for Locals and Visitors*

Austin, Texas, Oct. 13, 2016—More than 20 million people visit Austin each year, and tens of thousands move here. While many are drawn by technology, live music, craft beer and hip shops, the 5- to 14-year-old crowd has a different set of priorities. *Expedition Austin: A Kid's Guide to the Weirdest Town in Texas* is a brand new book that turns the post-Millennial's ATX wish list into an expedition through our town's cool pools, rad family night sites, foolproof goof-off spots and quirky works of art.

Written and illustrated by local creatives (and moms) Jill Coody Smits and Virginia Shurgar Hassell, the 120-page adventure provides a child's-eye view of 36 places and events such as the Cathedral of Junk, Campbell's Hole, Pinballz Arcade, food trucks, the LBJ Presidential Library and SXSW in chapters like "Wonder," "Splash," "Family Night," "Munch," "Cool School," and "Wristbands." Though it includes guidebook staples like an event calendar and logistics info, it is also full of add-ons such as fun facts, games and activities that turn *Expedition Austin* into much more than just a guide. Kid-centric extras include:

- 80 colorful illustrations of real kids having fun around town.
- 36 missions such as, "Run down Doug Sahm Hill at Butler Park and yell, 'beautiful Texas sunshine' at the top of your lungs."
- 20 iconic spots to track down on a photo scavenger hunt.
- 12 creative activities like coloring in a Barton Springs Salamander.
- 94 fun facts such as, "Laguna Gloria means 'heavenly lagoon.'"
- 12 quiz questions.
- 12 silly poems.

In order to provide the most awesome experience possible, Jill spent countless hours researching Austin's best places for kids, as well as interviewing pint-sized experts about their favorite spots. All of Virginia's illustrations are based on actual photographs of kids around town.

*Expedition Austin* can currently be found in BookPeople, the Blanton Museum Shop, the Austin Visitor Center, The Store at LBJ as well as online. For more information about how to purchase the guide, visit [www.expeditionaustin.com](http://www.expeditionaustin.com).

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