



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric**  
**Administration**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE**  
**20 South Vermillion Road**  
**Brownsville, Texas 78521-5798**  
October 1, 2010

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Brownsville, serving the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas, needs a Cooperative Weather Observer (Co-op Observer) in the City of Zapata. The National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Program was formally created in 1890 under the Organic Act by Congress. Co-op Observers are a critical part of the Nation's weather and climate observing network. More than 11,000 volunteers nationwide take observations daily in cities and towns, on farms and ranches; at National Parks, National Seashores and on Reservations; from the highest mountains to the lowest valleys. The mission of the Cooperative Weather Program is:

- To provide observations of meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long term climate changes;
- To provide observational of meteorological data in real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the National Weather Service.

Co-op observations assist agricultural planning and assessment, engineering, environmental-impact assessment, utilities planning, and litigation. These data are invaluable in helping us learn more about the floods, droughts, and heat and cold waves that affect us all.

Becoming a National Weather Service volunteer Co-op Observer requires the following:

1. Dedication to public service
2. Attention to detail
3. Ability to learn and perform daily duties
4. Willingness to allow NWS to place measuring instruments on your property
5. Willingness to allow at least 2 visits per year from a NWS representative



If selected to become an NWS Co-op Observer, the National Weather Service will provide the training and supervision necessary to successfully perform your duties. The Cooperative weather station in Zapata consists of a standard 8 inch rain gage, a Fischer/Porter hourly precipitation gage, a temperature sensor with digital read-out, and phone. All installation and maintenance of equipment will be provided by NWS personnel.

Cooperative weather data for the City of Zapata was first established on February 2, 1909. Please consider becoming a part of a long historical weather legacy by contacting one of the NWS representatives in Brownsville:

- Jim Campbell at (956) 504-3184, extension 225 ( e-mail: [jim.campbell@noaa.gov](mailto:jim.campbell@noaa.gov) )
- Alfredo Vega at (956) 504-3184, extension 408 (e-mail: [alfredo.vega@noaa.gov](mailto:alfredo.vega@noaa.gov) )

We look forward to hearing from interested residents of Zapata!

Sincerely,

/signed/

Barry S. Goldsmith,  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist

