

Environmental Education Program Brochure 2023-2024 school year



Explore. Discover. Connect.

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Randall Davey
Audubon Center
and Sanctuary¹

Overview

Audubon's field science programs offer engaging, hands-on experiences and activities that provide students the opportunity for genuine scientific inquiry and connection with the natural world. Each of our programs combine discovery, investigation, and outdoor exploration.

- Ages 4-12 years old
- Aligned to NM STEM Ready! And Next Generation Science Standards
- Field trip and in-school visits available
- Scholarships available to Title 1 schools for grades 3-5 (as available)

The Setting

Our wildlife sanctuary spans 135 acres and includes hiking trails, pollinator and wildlife gardens, and a large classroom space offering natural artifacts, tools, and technology for science investigations. Our trails and the neighboring Santa Fe Canyon Preserve feature diverse forest, river, and garden habitats for student exploration.

After a day out on the trails, students and families are invited to play in our new Nature Discovery Area (a.k.a. The Treehouse).

Audubon educators can also come to you! Educators will bring hands-on materials and lead the same great science activities in your classroom and outside in the schoolyard. Audubon educators can travel within 1-2 hours of Santa Fe, depending on availability and weather conditions.

Time & Seasonality

- Field trips are generally 1-3 hours long; all include a 15-minute snack break.
- Program start times are flexible, and we invite you enjoy lunch before or after your program at our sanctuary. Most programs run 9:30-12:30pm, with lunch and free play from 12:30-1:30pm.
- Field trips are scheduled Monday - Friday, September through early November and mid-March through May.
- PLEASE NOTE: Santa Fe Public Schools only books field trip busses on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
- Programs at your location can be scheduled any time during the school year, any day of the week (subject to educator availability).
- All bookings are subject to availability.
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Program Registration

To schedule a program, email the education department at the Randall Davey Audubon Center at Meghan.baker@audubon.org to receive the registration link. Upon registration, you will receive your confirmation, invoice, required release forms, and guidelines and tips for your visit. Schools are responsible for booking their own bus with your school secretary.

"This program is an amazing part of our science curriculum. It provides a hands-on, inquiry-based science experience that gets students excited about learning."

- 4th Grade Teacher, Gonzalez Elementary



2023-2024 Offerings

| Program Title | Grade level/Age | Type & Location | Price |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Discovery Walk | Pre K-Kindergarten, ages 4-6 | Outdoor (RDAC field trip or at your location) | \$145 |
| Bird Buddies | Pre-K – 12 th , ages 4-18 | Indoor or Outdoor (at your location) | \$145 |
| Pollination Fascination | K-2, ages 5-8 | Outdoor (RDAC Field Trip) | \$185 |
| Animal Adaptations | Grades 3-5, ages 8-12 | Outdoor (RDAC Field Trip) | \$185 |
| Nature's Interconnections | Grades 3-5, ages 8-12 | Indoor or Outdoor (RDAC or at your location) | \$145 |
| All About Birds | Grades 3-5, ages 8-12 | Indoor (RDAC or at your location) | \$145 |
| Birds of a Feather Explore Together | Grades 3-5, ages 8-12 | Outdoor (RDAC Field Trip) | \$185 |
| Ecosystem Exploration | Grades 3-5, ages 8-12 | Outdoor (RDAC Field Trip) | \$185 |
| New for 2024! Wild Words | Grades 5-6, ages 10-12 | Outdoor (RDAC Field Trip) ELA focused | \$185 |

*Please note that prices cover the educator's time and materials per one class (up to 30 students). They do not include bus fees.

Tuition and bus fee scholarships are available, especially for Title 1 schools and classroom visits. Please reach out to our education team for more details.

"I wanted to send you a heartfelt Thank You for your coming to our classroom yesterday. [Audubon Educators] are professional, encouraging, knowledgeable, and supportive to students of all levels. We will definitely be contacting Audubon to plan for future presentations and field trips." –Special Education & Life Skills teacher at Eldorado Community School



Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Corey Raffel/Audubon Photography Awards

Program Descriptions

Discovery Walks

Pre-K & Kindergarten, Field Trip or At Your Location, 1.5 Hours
Designed for young learners, we'll engage all of our senses to explore the natural world during this fun and educational nature walk on our sanctuary trails or your outdoor space. Educators will lead guided investigation, as well as games and other fun learning activities.

Customizable to support your classroom learning. Contact us for more info.



Bird Buddies

Pre-K – 12th grade, At Your Location, 45 minutes-1.5 Hours

Enjoy the convenience of an Audubon Educator coming to your classroom!

Get outside the classroom and have students learn about their local environment, wildlife, birds, climate change right around the schoolyard. Audubon educators lead hands-on investigations about bird anatomy, migration, and binoculars. We can adjust our programs to meet the curriculum currently

being taught in class.

Customizable to support your classroom learning. Contact us for more info.

Pollination Fascination

K - 2nd Grade, Field Trip, 3 hours

Students discover the importance of pollinators in the life cycle of flowering plants, and in our food web. Students will take part in a guided flower dissection, observational nature hike, and pollination game. We'll discuss why pollinators are essential, and what we can do to help protect the insects, birds, and other wildlife found in the garden.

This program is scheduled from March-May due to seasonality and natural occurrence of pollinators.





Animal Adaptations

3rd - 5th Grade, Field Trip, 3 hours

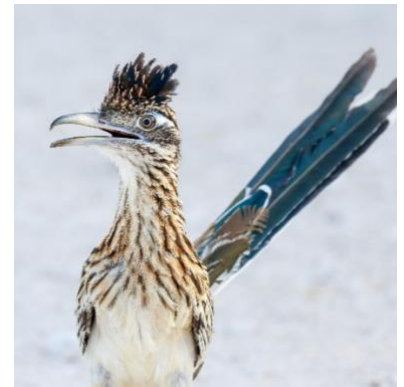
Learn about New Mexico wildlife and the unique features that help them survive in the habitats surrounding our sanctuary. Students practice scientific observations on a nature hike, explore inquiry through an adaptations game, and collect data during an animal skull investigation. This field trip is a great way to kick off the year practicing inquiry learning and other basic science skills.

All About Birds

3rd - 5th Grade, At Your Location, 1.5 hours

Pair this in-class visit with our outdoor Birds of a Feather field trip!

Invite an Audubon Educator to visit your classroom to explore the world of birds with your students. During this program, students focus on the question: what makes a bird, a bird? Through a hands-on investigation of various bird artifacts, like skulls, beaks, feathers, feet, bones, eggs, and nests, students practice inquiry, scientific observation, and data collection to learn more about the adaptations of this fascinating family.



Birds of a Feather Explore Together

3rd - 5th Grade, Field Trip, 3 hours

Our most popular program!

How do birds use their adaptations to survive and thrive? With help from an Audubon educator, we'll learn about some of the wild birds found at the Sanctuary, then go on a guided observation hike. Students will investigate the diversity of bird adaptations and behavior through hands-on games, data collection, and analysis. After a day of outdoor science learning, students can reflect on how human choices can affect birds, and what they can do to help conserve them.

Nature's Interconnections

3rd - 5th Grade, Field Trip or At Your Location, 2-3 hours

Invite an Audubon Educator to visit your classroom and explore your schoolyard habitat. Students will investigate the different parts of a habitat and what animals need to survive. Together, we will head outside to see what we can find and what we could improve to create a healthy habitat for wildlife in our backyard. Through hands-on activities, students explore the interrelationship between living and nonliving things, including the role we as humans play and how we can protect natural resources.



Ecosystem Exploration

3rd - 5th Grade, Field Trip, 3 hours

Students explore the biodiversity of our Sanctuary's ecosystem and the adaptations of animals living in the habitat. We explore how energy enters and moves through a food chain, collect data through a hands-on investigation of the producers, consumers, and decomposers that live on and near our trails, and learn about the importance of non-living factors, such as weather, climate, and water.

Wild Words

3rd – 5th Grade, Field Trip, 3 hours

Only available for 4 classes

Rich with forests, streams, and wildlife, the Center provides the perfect place for nature exploration and art. We will start by studying the poems we find along the RDAC Haiku Trail. After an observation and mindfulness hike, we will then chose a spot along the trail to contemplate and write our own poems with the assistance of local poet Stella Reed. This interdisciplinary science and ELA curricula promotes connecting with the natural world, while giving students a chance to create their own wild words.

This program is scheduled for April for National Poetry Month and will culminate in a Reading and Celebration at RDAC for students and families. Participants will have their poetry published as a collection.



[Additional Details](#)

Who Can Participate

Classes throughout Santa Fe, as well as outside the district; adult chaperones; community groups such as churches, camps, scouts, and homeschoolers; and more.

Special requests

We recognize the different needs of our community and are willing to work with you to accommodate to the best of our ability. Program modifications or special requests must be approved by the Education Department in advance of booking your reservation. Please contact us with any questions or for further details.

Payment and Cancellation

Pre-payment for all programs is required, unless otherwise noted by Audubon staff. Once you receive your confirmation, you are required to send payment with your completed contract at least 16 days prior to your scheduled program or you will forfeit your reservation. Please make purchase orders and checks payable to Audubon New Mexico, or contact the Education Department if you would like to make a payment with a Visa or MasterCard. If a cancellation is made at least 7 days in advance of your scheduled date, you will receive a refund less a \$50 administrative fee. Classes cancelled within 7 days of your scheduled date forfeit registration fee, with the exception of classes cancelled due to inclement weather.

Transportation

Teachers are responsible for scheduling their own transportation to and from the Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary. Once you receive confirmation from the Education Department for a scheduled program, please reserve your bus(es) immediately, as availability becomes very limited throughout the year.

Financial Assistance

A limited amount of financial assistance is available for classes with at least 50% of students qualifying for the free or reduced lunch program (Title 1 status). Both partial and full scholarships are available. For more information, please contact the Education Department. Funding graciously provided by the LANL Foundation, Outdoor Equity Fund, and Brindle Foundation.

Lunch and Snacks

We encourage you to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the lawn and/or explore our trails on a self-guided hike after the program at no additional charge. Audubon does not provide snacks or lunch during field trip programs. There is a small refrigerator available to store food, but students and schools are encouraged to provide their own coolers.

Santa Fe Outdoor Education Collaborative

Audubon is a founding member and 4th grade partner in the Santa Fe Outdoor Education Collaborative (SFOEC), which seeks to provide high quality, hands-on life science learning to local students. Additional partners include the Santa Fe Botanical Garden (3rd Grade), the Santa Fe Watershed Association (5th Grade), Santa Fe Public Schools, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation.

Teachers who participate in the annual summer workshop are eligible for additional materials and free field trips. The 4th grade SFOEC progression includes a fall field trip, spring/winter in-class visit, and Spring field trip. To learn more, please visit sfoec.org

Contact Us:

Randall Davey Audubon Center: Education Department

Email: newmexico@audubon.org or meghan.baker@audubon.org

Please email for inquiries and questions as educators are often away from their desks.