

THE WILD NEWS



FALL 2022

NM SCHOOL
OF LAW



WHAT IS WILD FRIENDS?

Wild Friends is a hands-on civics and science education program in schools across New Mexico working to protect wildlife through science and legislative action. Wild Friends is YOU!



Meet our 2022-23 Schools!

Carlsbad Intermediate Schools
Chaparral Elementary School (Santa Fe)
Emerson Elementary School (Albuquerque)
Mark Armijo Academy (Albuquerque)
Mitchell Elementary School (Albuquerque)
Monte Vista Elementary School (Las Cruces)
Peñasco Elementary School
Rio Gallinas Charter School (Las Vegas)
To'Hajiilee Community School
Wagon Mound Public Schools

Welcome!

You are joining over 14,000 students across New Mexico who have helped to conserve wildlife through science and legislative advocacy! This fall you will vote on a topic (see ballot on reverse side), do research on your topic, learn about how government works, and then help to draft legislation to address your topic. Starting in January, you will be a part of the 2023 New Mexico Legislative session, advocating for your legislation!



WILD FRIENDS TOPIC VOTING

STUDENT VOICE & CHOICE

You get to help choose what topic all of our Wild Friends schools will work on this year! As part of the democratic process, all Wild Friends students get to vote once on a topic. After all the votes are tallied, the topic with the most votes will be what all Wild Friends students work on this year.

Your two topic choices are Forest Education and Bird Protection. Happy voting!



FOREST EDUCATION

Forests are important to all New Mexicans' lives, including wildlife. New Mexico's forests cover almost 25 million acres which is roughly one-third of the state's land! Forests help provide us with clean air and water along with economic opportunity through lumber production and recreation activities. Many types of wildlife consider forests as their home and rely on its resources for survival. With proper care, forests can reduce the risk of wildfire, retain carbon, purify air and water, and provide prime habitat for native wildlife.

After this year's devastating wildfires, Wild Friends students could write a memorial that will help educate New Mexicans on the importance of forests and request a Forest Appreciation Day.

BIRD PROTECTION

Birds are an essential part of our natural world. They provide many benefits to ecosystems through pollinating and spreading seeds of native plant species along with controlling populations of mice and insects. Birds are also a key to indicating potential environmental changes.

Humans have created hazards for birds through the use of reflective glass and artificial light. Research indicates that up to 1 billion birds may be killed per year in the U.S. alone due to window collisions. Artificial light at night disorients migrating birds and sometimes attracts them causing window collisions.

Wild Friends students can write a memorial asking to have state buildings and schools turn off unnecessary lights and add sticker patterns to windows that will help prevent collisions.



Voting Ballot

Please vote on one of the topics below by filling in one circle:



Forest Education



Bird Protection

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