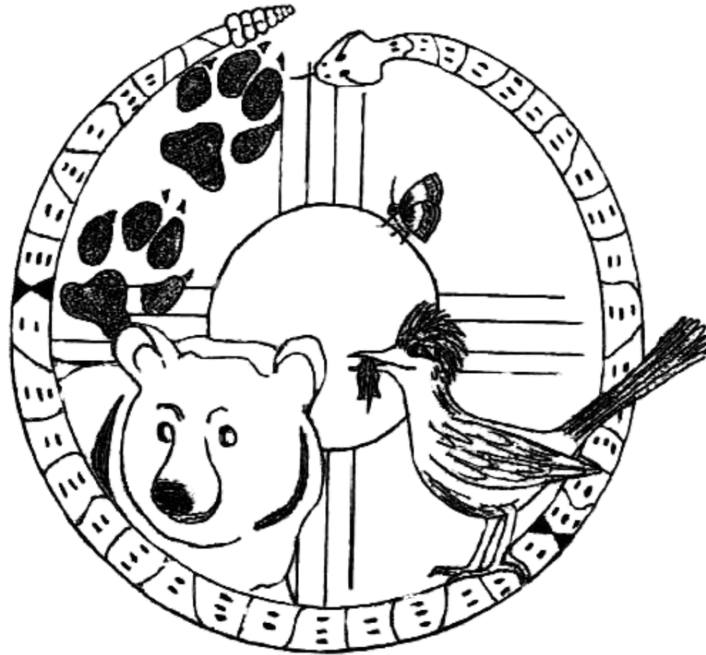


Wild Friends Teacher Information Packet



Wild Friends is a unique, award-winning civics and science education program at the UNM School of Law. Our mission is to provide a statewide, experiential education program that integrates civics and wildlife science to help students in grades 4-12 understand the democratic process, develop good citizenship skills, and contribute to wildlife conservation via public policy projects of their choosing.

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Facebook: Wild Friends New Mexico
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Welcome to Wild Friends!



Important Information

- All students must complete required topic lessons, civics lessons, and a practice session to attend the Roundhouse field trip or participate in any legislative activities.
- Most communication from Wild Friends will occur via email, and Allyson (akwiley@unm.edu) will be your main contact for any questions or concerns.
- You will receive a monthly digest email at the beginning of each month to notify you of what activities should be completed and what we will start working on that month.
- Wild Friends can accommodate up to 100 students for in-class and virtual visits.
- Wild Friends can accommodate up to 30 students for the Roundhouse Field Trip. Please reach out if you need help deciding how to choose students.



Wild Friends Past Legislation

Wild Friends has worked on a wide range of topics throughout the years. Since 1991, Wild Friends students have written over 2 dozen memorials and bills requesting state action on issues that affect wildlife. Wild Friends legislation has a success rate of 70% compared to 20% for most legislation. Here is a list of our previous legislation that passed:

1998: State Whooping Crane Day (HJM 12)
2000: Wildlife Violator Compact Study (HJM 50)
2001: Wildlife Violator Compact Participation (HB 174)
2002: State Butterfly Memorial (HJM 1)
2003: Reduce Wildlife-Vehicle Accidents (HJM 3)
2006: Ban Computer Hunting Bill (SB 157)
2007: Global Warming Memorial (HM 64)
2008: Expand State Capitol Recycling (SJM 20)
2009: Wildlife Corridors & Identify Crucial Habitats (HJM 4)
2010: Native Pollinators Memorial (HM 4/ SM 9)

2011: Wildlife Safety Zone (HJM 10)
2012: The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (HM 3/ SM 10)
2013: The Wild life Safety Zone Memorial (HM 1/ SM11)
2014: Increase Trophy Poaching Penalties (HM 3/ SM 14)
2015: Protect Wildlife from Drones (SM 91/HM 81)
2016: "Bee Aware Day" Memorial (SM 103)
2017: Pollinator Friendly Plants Memorial (SJM 4)
2019: Pollinator-Protection License Plate (SB 234)
2021: Outdoor Classrooms Memorial (SM 1)
2022: Outdoor Classroom Funding Bill (SB 32)

You can find detailed descriptions of each project on our website at wildfriends.unm.edu.

Detailed Teacher Timeline

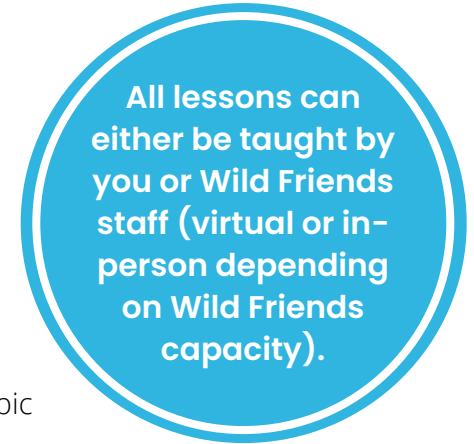


August – Introduction to Wild Friends!

- Teachers review information packet
- Teachers introduce Wild Friends Program to students
- Teachers complete legislative topic and voting lesson with students
- Teachers and students read The Wild News! (included in lesson)
- Students vote on legislative topic (included in lesson)
- Teachers submit votes to Wild Friends staff

September – Learn about the winning topic!

- Wild Friends announces the winning topic
- Teachers receive first topic lesson on winning topic
- Students complete first topic lesson
- Wild Friends offers potential guest speaker opportunities on winning topic



October – Become experts on the winning topic!

- Teachers receive second topic lesson on winning topic
- Students complete second topic lesson
- Wild Friends offers potential guest speaker opportunities on winning topic
- Teachers participate in a program check-in with Wild Friends staff
- Wild Friends staff work with teachers on planning for Roundhouse field trip in January-March
- Teachers gather t-shirt sizes from students and submit to Wild Friends staff

November/December – Prepare for the legislative session!

- Teachers receive civics lesson(s)
- Students complete legislative drafts
- Teachers submit student legislative drafts to Wild Friends staff
- Teachers organize chaperones for Roundhouse field trip
- Wild Friends staff finish Roundhouse field trip planning with teachers and distributes t-shirts

January/February/March – Advocate for our legislation!

- Students complete "How to be an effective advocate" lesson and practice session with Wild Friends staff
- Students, teachers, and chaperones attend Roundhouse field trip
- Students provide expert testimony at committee hearings (this might not occur during your field trip!)
- Teachers receive letter writing lesson
 - Students write to specific legislators at different times throughout the legislative session

April/May – Celebrate our hard work!

- Teachers receive a list of spring activities offered by Wild Friends
- Teachers work with Wild Friends staff on scheduling chosen activities
- Teachers complete teacher and student feedback form
- Teachers and students read The Wild News!
- Students receive certificates of achievement from Wild Friends staff (optional)

Wild Friends Curriculum



General Curriculum Information

Wild Friends provides lessons throughout the year to help prepare students for the legislative session, so they feel confident talking to legislators, providing expert testimony, and writing letters. All of our lessons meet state standards in various subject areas and should be supplemental to your established classroom curriculum. We cannot send you all of our lessons at the beginning of the year because we don't know the legislative topic until students vote. We curate specialized lessons throughout the year and send them to you around the time specified on the timeline to help scaffold the learning experience. Here is a general breakdown of the types of lessons to expect this year:

Legislative Topics and Voting Lesson - Required

Description: Students will learn about the legislative topics and vote on their favorite topic.

Class time: 30 minutes

Time Frame: August - September

Completion: Early September

Topic Lessons - 2 required lessons with optional supplemental lessons

Description: Students will learn about the winning legislative topic and become experts on the topic through multiple lessons.

Class time:

Time Frame: September - October

Completion: Late October

1 hour per lesson

Civics Lessons - Required

Description: Students will learn about the legislative process, how government works, and draft legislation.

Class time:

Time Frame: November - December

Completion: December

1 hour per lesson

Advocacy Lesson with Practice Session - Required

Description: Students will write an elevator speech about our legislation and learn how to talk to legislators. Wild Friends staff will teach this lesson for all schools.

Class time: 1 hour

Time Frame: January

Completion: Before field trip date

Letter Writing Lesson - Required

Description: Students write letters/emails to legislators throughout the legislative session.

Class time: 30 minutes

Time Frame: January - March

Completion: March

Student Activity Timeline



Students will...

**August -
September**

- Learn about Wild Friends
- Learn about the different legislative topic choices
- Read The Wild News (Fall Newsletter)
- Vote on a legislative topic



**September -
October**

- Learn about the winning topic by completing all required Wild Friends topic lessons
- Participate in supplementary topic lessons based on teacher preference



**November -
December**

- Learn about the New Mexico legislature and how our government works through required Wild Friends civics lessons
- Draft legislation on the winning topic



**January -
March**

- Participate in an advocacy practice session
- Participate in the legislative session
- Visit the New Mexico State Capitol
- Write letters to legislators



**March -
May**

- Celebrate their hard work during the legislative session!
- Participate in various outdoor or wildlife activities
- Read The Wild News (Spring Newsletter)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS



WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE OFFERED BY WILD FRIENDS?

Wild Friends offers standards-based science and civics lessons to prepare for the legislative session (fall), an authentic legislative experience (winter), and interactive outdoor/wildlife programming (spring).

HOW DO THE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES WORK?

During the legislative session, students will be able to draft actual legislation, advocate to legislators, testify in committee hearings, and write letters to legislators. Students must complete required science and civics lessons and a practice session to participate in any legislative activities and attend the field trip to the Roundhouse.

WHAT IS THE IN-CLASS TIME COMMITMENT?

From August - December, the lessons will take about 2-3 hours of class time each month. January - March will take about 10 hours of class time (total), including a field trip to the Roundhouse. Activities in March - May could take about 7 hours (total), depending on what outdoor/wildlife activities you choose for your class.

WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO AS THE TEACHER?

Complete all required Wild Friends lessons and participate in legislative activities. Attend the Roundhouse field trip with chaperones. Communicate with us throughout the year for planning purposes to ensure you have the best Wild Friends experience!

IS THE PROGRAM VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON?

In a normal year, the Roundhouse field trip and our spring activities are in-person. If you want Wild Friends staff to teach any of the lessons we provide, those can be either virtual or in-person.

WHAT COSTS ARE COVERED BY WILD FRIENDS?

Wild Friends will pay for either busing or lodging (if needed) for the Roundhouse field trip, and free t-shirts. We will pay for all outdoor/wildlife activities that we offer in the spring for that year.

