

ABOUT US

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.

Wild Friends activities are designed to help teachers implement educational standards and benchmarks, including Common Core and New Mexico state standards.

Our Past Projects

Throughout the years, Wild Friends students have worked on a wide range of topics including wildlife corridors, poaching penalties, outdoor classrooms, and pollinator protection.



In 2022, students successfully advocated for SB 32 which requested \$500,000 for the Public Education Department to develop an Outdoor Classroom Program.



Wild Friends helped pass legislation and create the first ever NM Pollinator Protection license plate in 2019 (SB 234).



CONTACT US

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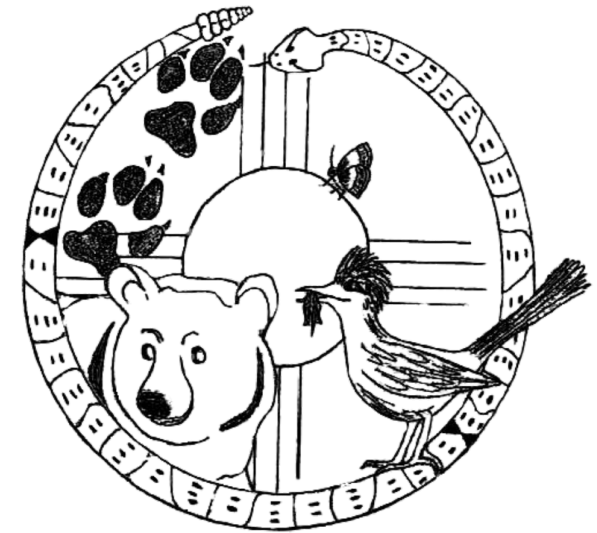
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ExxonMobil



WILD FRIENDS



NM SCHOOL OF LAW

Wild Friends is a unique, award-winning, experiential civics and science education program at the UNM School of Law

OUR PROGRAM



SINCE 1991, WILD FRIENDS STUDENTS HAVE WRITTEN OVER 2 DOZEN MEMORIALS AND BILLS REQUESTING STATE ACTION ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT WILDLIFE.

What does Wild Friends offer?

- Standards-based science and civics lessons
- Wild Friends staff classroom support
- A hands-on legislative experience including a field trip to the New Mexico State Capitol
- Interactive outdoor/wildlife programming and outreach visits
- Free Wild Friends t-shirts, transportation and/or lodging

What will my students do?

- Vote by ballot to choose the annual wildlife-related topic
- Research the topic
- Learn about state government and lawmaking
- Complete Wild Friends lessons to prepare for the legislative session
- Write a real bill or a memorial with help from Wild Friends legal educators
- Participate in the legislative session by:
 - Visiting the NM State Capitol
 - Speaking to Legislators
 - Providing expert testimony at committee hearings
 - Writing letters
- Participate in various outdoor or wildlife activities in the spring



What will I do as the teacher?

- Conduct topic voting (Aug.)
- Support Wild Friends lessons throughout the year:
 - Science Lesson(s) (Oct.)
 - Legislative Drafting (Nov.)
 - Civics Lesson(s) (Nov. – Dec.)
 - Practice Session (Jan.)
 - Letter Writing (Jan. – March)
- Coordinate field trips with Wild Friends staff (Jan. – May)
- Accompany students and organize chaperones for the NM State Capitol field trip
- Actively communicate with us throughout the year so we can offer the best program experience!