



Book a Field Trip to Rio Salado Audubon Center

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.



How to Book!

To book your field trip or for more questions email riosalado@audubon.org

Choose between a program at the [Center](#), [Your site](#) or in the [Community](#).

Then, select customizable add-ons. Discounts are available for qualifying groups.

Nature in Your Neighborhood

Build Your Own Field Trip!

Explore the rich biodiversity of the Sonoran Desert through a field trip experience! At the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, students will dive into hands-on, standards-based learning at dynamic STEAM stations. Pick up to three stations.

*Each station can be made into it's own field trip for a shorter session.

1. Guided Nature Outing

Students practice using binoculars and develop observation skills to identify signs of local wildlife. Depending on the season and group needs, the program can be extended into a longer guided walk to deepen field-based learning.

2. Mammals of Arizona

Through hands-on investigation of pelts and skulls, students examine the physical characteristics of Arizona's mammals. Activities focus on connecting skull and tooth structures to dietary habits, ecological roles, and survival strategies.

3. Nature Journals

This program integrates STEM and the arts by engaging students in nature journaling and sound mapping. Students strengthen their observation, reflection, and communication skills while exploring connections between science and creativity.

4. Bird Beak Adaptation Investigation

Students participate in an interactive activity modeling how bird beaks are adapted to specific food sources. The lesson emphasizes ecological adaptations and demonstrates how animals adjust to their environments in order to survive and thrive.



Nature in Your Schoolyard

Build Your Own School Program!

Explore the rich biodiversity of the Sonoran Desert and transform your campus into an outdoor learning lab through a field trip experience! Students will rethink their school grounds as thriving habitats through hands-on, standards-based learning at dynamic STEAM stations. Pick up to three stations.

*Each station can be made into it's own program for a shorter session.

1. Guided Nature Outing

Students practice using binoculars and develop observation skills to identify signs of local wildlife on your campus.

2. Mammals of Arizona

Through hands-on investigation of pelts and skulls, students examine the physical characteristics of Arizona's mammals. Activities focus on connecting skull and tooth structures to dietary habits, ecological roles, and survival strategies.

3. Nature Journals

This program integrates STEM and the arts by engaging students in nature journaling and sound mapping. Students strengthen their observation, reflection, and communication skills while exploring connections between science and creativity.

4. Bird Beak Adaptation Investigation

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In the Community

We take our programs beyond the Rio Salado, bringing engaging, hands-on learning and informative talks directly to the community. We share the center's work, highlight local birds and wildlife, and inspire appreciation for the desert and riparian ecosystems. Offsite presentations can be scheduled for schools, community centers, festivals, or other groups, with program length and format tailored to meet each group's needs.



Additional Details

Who Can Participate

Classes throughout Phoenix, 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. Please make purchase orders and checks payable to Rio Salado Audubon Center, 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, except for classes cancelled due to inclement weather.

Transportation

Teachers are responsible for scheduling their own transportation to and from the Rio Salado Audubon Center. 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.

Lunch and Snacks

We encourage you to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy outside 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.



Photo Credits

- Page 1 Rio Salado Audubon Center. Photo: Luke Franke
 Girl Scouts on Nature Walk. Photo: Danny-Roper-Jones/ Audubon Southwest
 Microscope investigation. Photo: Danny-Roper-Jones/ Audubon Southwest
 Gambel's Quail, Photo: Paul Tanuja
- Page 2 Nature journals. Photo: Juliana Gomez/ Audubon Southwest
 Students on nature walk. Photo: Morgan Moore/ Audubon
 Pelts and skulls of mammals. Photo: Juliana Gomez/ Audubon Southwest
 Cactus Wren. Photo: Krisztina Scheeff/Audubon Photography Awards
- Page 3 Tabling event at Liberty Wildlife. Photo: Danny-Roper-Jones/ Audubon Southwest
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