

## Volunteer Notes

Enchanted Trail is Audubon Arizona's annual fall festival. The event gives visitors a greater appreciation for Arizona's nocturnal (night-active) wildlife through three guided trail stations, a night hike, live wildlife, mask making, and more. **This year's focal animals are the North American Beaver, the Mexican Free-tailed Bat, and the Barn Owl.**

Each young participant will be given an **Enchanted Trail trail guide**. This trail guide provides them with a map of the event and assigns them one of the three focal animals (indicated by a colored sticker). To discover their mystery animal's identity, they will collect clues about where their animal lives, what it eats, and how it moves, at the three guided trail stations (Bat Cave, Critter Café, and Mystery Movement). These clues can be found in the color-coded frames at each of these stations.

Once they've identified their mystery animal, participants can stay and enjoy our night hike, view live wildlife including owls, snakes, and scorpions, meet and learn from local scientists, get some food, and make a nocturnal animal mask inside the center - just in time for Halloween!

## Critter Café:

After learning about where their mystery animal lives during their trip through the Enchanted Trail Bat Cave, participants will find themselves at the Critter Café. Here, visitors will find a clue in a color-coded frame telling them **what their mystery animal eats**.

- At the Critter Café table, visitors will find three framed clues, each coupled with plates of food and each painted to match one of three colors corresponding to the stickers on visitors' trail guides.
- Each plate displays the favored diet of one of the event's three focal animals. Once they find their clue, you can provide them with extra information about their animal using the notes below (don't tell them what the animal is! I.E. "Your animal..." instead of "Great-horned Owls...")
  - **Barn owls eat** small rodents like mice and rats (as many as 4 a night, or 1460 per year!)
  - **Mexican Free-tailed Bats eat** mostly insects like moths, beetles, dragonflies, flies, true bugs, wasps, and ants. They catch most of their meals in flight.
  - **North American Beavers eat** bark from trees, cambium (the soft tissue below the bark), roots, and emergent vegetation such as cattail
- Encourage participants to circle the correct answer for **question number 2** in their trail guide.
- Send visitors towards station three: Mystery Movement, where they will learn about how their mystery animal moves.

**Your area leader is: Steve Prager**