

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!

Mystery Movement:

After learning about what their mystery animal eats at the Critter Café, participants will have to navigate through a third and final station to identify their mystery animal. At this station, visitors will find a clue in a color-coded frame telling them **how their animal moves**.

- Along the trail in the Mystery Movement area, paths of glowing "food items" will lead participants to a framed clue and their mystery animal!
- The glowing "food items" will be the same as the food they learned their mystery animal prefers at the Critter Café. In addition, they will glow the same color as their passport and will lead to a clue framed in the same color.
 - **Barn owls move** by flying silently. The leading edge of their wings have comb-like projections that break up airflow and allow the birds to flap without a sound.
 - **Mexican Free-tailed bats move** by using echolocation - or sending out bursts of sound that bounce off of objects in the dark and back to the bat, allowing it to find its way.
 - **North American Beavers move** by swimming - using large paddle-like paws and a rudder-like tail to propel them up to 5 miles per hour
- Encourage participants to circle the correct answer for **question number 3** in their trail guide.
- Visitors should now have answers to all three questions in their passport and should be able to figure out which of the event's three focal animals is their mystery animal. If they are having trouble, help them out!
- Collect all black lights and pencils at the end of this station. A runner will be by to bring them to the welcome station.
- Send visitors to discover the rest of the Enchanted Trail. They have live wildlife, night hikes, crafts, and food to look forward to!

Your area leader is: Steve Prager