

October 20 & 21, 2017  
5:30-8:00pm

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 Striped Skunk, the Cave Myotis (bat), and the Great-horned 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!

## Welcome Station:

The welcome table is the first station visitors will encounter on the Enchanted Trail. They will likely have lots of questions!

- Give each CHILD one Enchanted Trail trail guide, a pencil, and a blacklight. Explain the trail guide contains a map of the event and three questions that will help them discover which of the Enchanted Trail animals they are. At the end of the trail, visitors will find a mask-making station where they can get into character by creating an animal mask.
- Advise children to search for clues that are framed in the same color as the sticker on their trail guide.
- Advise visitors not to miss out on our moth viewing station and night hikes! The moth viewing and welcome station for the night hikes are both at the northwest corner of the event (show them on their map if needed).
- Send visitors to the first station, the Bat Cave, where they will learn where their mystery animal lives.
- Occasionally, you will need to replenish your supply of blacklights and pencils. They are collected at the end of the Mystery Movement station - either head over to pick them up or request that one of the floaters get them for you (give them some warning!).
- Spanish speakers are extremely valuable in this position, as many of our visitors are also Spanish speakers or bilingual.

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## Floater:

As a floater, it is your job to roam the Enchanted Trail and Audubon Center and help Audubon staff make sure everything runs smoothly. With nearly 1,000 visitors coming through each night, problems are bound to arise! As you walk around, check the following:

- Are all volunteers/exhibitors comfortable and happy? Do they know they can get food and drinks in the Staff Only hallway? Do they need water? A wagon will circulate the event with snacks and drinks for volunteers as well.
- Do all volunteers understand their assignments?
- Do any volunteers/exhibitors need a break?
- Do all stations/exhibits have all needed materials?
- Are visitors on the trail backing up or bottlenecking at any point?
- Are there any hazards on the trail or in the Center? (debris, spills, loose cords, etc.)
- Are visitors having a good time? Do they seem confused about what to do at any point on the trail?

If you encounter any issues that you cannot solve on your own, **please seek out Audubon Staff or lead volunteers to help.**

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## Bat Cave:

This is the very first station on the Enchanted Trail, so this is where visitors may need the most help understanding their trail guides. In the Bat Cave, visitors will find a clue in a color-coded frame telling them **where their mystery animal lives**.

- The framed clues are hanging on the cave walls and each is painted to match one of three colors corresponding to the stickers on visitors' trail guides.
- Each clue will tell the visitor where their mystery animal lives. 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...")
- Have visitors use their black lights to explore the walls of the cave until they find their clue.

- **Great-horned owls live** in a wide variety of habitats from deserts, to grasslands, to forests where they roost and nest in trees, on cliffs, or on other high points that are difficult for predators to reach. Large stick nests, sometimes borrowed from large raptors like Red-tailed Hawks, are used for nesting.

- **Cave Myotis live** (roost) in caves but can also be found in mines, rock crevices, abandoned buildings, and under bridges

- **Striped Skunks live** in wooded areas where they will seek shelter in large burrows known as dens. Skunks can dig their own burrows but will often take over burrows dug by other animals.

- Encourage participants to circle the correct answer for **question number 1** in their trail guide.
- Send visitors to the next station, the Critter Café, where they will learn about what their mystery animal eats.

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## 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...")
  - **Great-horned owls eat** a wide variety of prey and have the most diverse diet of any North American raptor. Prey items include rodents and other small to medium mammals, large invertebrates like scorpions, birds, reptiles, fish, and sometimes carrion.
  - **Cave Myotis eat** mostly moths, but will also prey on other small flying insects like beetles, weevils, and antlions
  - **Striped Skunks eat** mostly insects like grasshoppers, beetles, crickets, and caterpillars, but will also eat small mammals, eggs, nesting birds, and fruit.
- 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.

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## 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.
  - **Great-horned 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.
  - **Cave Myotis 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.
  - **Striped Skunks move** by walking silently
- 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!

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## Mask Making:

At the end of the Enchanted Trail, visitors will find themselves in the Rio Salado Audubon Center's classroom where they will have a chance to make a mask of one of the event's three focal animals. You should encourage participants to make the mask of the animal that they learned about by answering the questions in their trail guide, but allow them to make whichever they like.

- Distribute the craft supplies amongst the tables as they run low. Do not put all of the materials out at once or the visitors will use them all up!
- Give visitors two pieces of yarn for tying their mask on.
- Cut extra strings and tie them onto the pre-cut masks when you have free time - visitors can pile up as the event gets busy!
- Encourage visitors to participate in the Enchanted Trail raffle and survey while they are making their masks.

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## Parking:

As a parking lot attendant, it is your responsibility to make sure visitors make it in and out of our (South and North Rio Salado) parking lots without incident. With nearly 1,000 visitors coming in each night, things can get busy fast! Fear not, however, we have off-duty police officers in and around our lots. In addition, a volunteer in each lot will have a radio/walkie-talkie.

- Always have a flashlight and wear a reflective safety vest while working in the parking lot.
- Make sure someone on your team has a walkie-talkie so you can stay in touch with volunteers/staff in the Center. You should also have a cell phone in case of emergency.
- Parking is available in two places: our main lot at the Audubon Center and on the opposite side of the river in the Rio Salado Restoration Area parking lot (north side of the river, east side of Central).
- Upon entering our south parking lot, visitors will have the chance to park along the chain link fence that runs along the north of the access road. To save space, they should park diagonally instead of parallel parking (/ / / / NOT — — — —).
- If our main lot is full, direct visitors to the Rio Salado parking lot on the north side of the river. If they object to the walk across the bridge, tell them they can either wait until a space opens up in our lot or wait for another group of visitors to head to the north lot so they have someone to walk over with. The bridge is well lit and is being monitored by security and staff!
- Once parked, direct visitors to the southeast entrance to the Audubon Center (NOT the front door or west trail entrances!). If they do not go to the main entrance, we will not be able to count their attendance and they will be very confused about what to do! **It may be helpful to grab a guidebok so you can see how everything is laid out.**
- If you have any problems, do not hesitate to contact Audubon staff/volunteers via your walky-talkies or come inside. Your safety comes first!

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## Trash Troll and Helper:

The Trash Troll is the Enchanted Trail's eco-minded costumed character - think Oscar the Grouch with a Halloween twist! It is the Troll's job to make sure visitors leave the Enchanted Trail understanding the scary truth about littering and the value of conservation and recycling.

- The Trash Troll will need a helper as the costume, which includes a cape, face paint, and a fake nose, feet, and hands is a bit cumbersome.
- The Troll will have a trash-laden lair positioned after Mystery Movement on the Enchanted Trail.
- As visitors come by, ask them to put their candy wrappers and other trash in the garbage bins in the Troll's area.
- Remind visitors that before the Rio Salado was a lush haven for wildlife, it was a dump! By working together to clean the place up and by not re-filling it with our waste, it's been transformed into the place they are enjoying tonight.
- Don't scare the children! Some of our participants will be very young, so use your best judgment in how you portray the Troll.
- Spanish speakers are a big plus for this position!

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## Raffle Ticket Hustler:

At the end of the Enchanted Trail, visitors will find themselves in the Rio Salado Audubon Center's classroom where they will have a chance to make a mask of one of the event's three focal animals. This is sometimes the first and only time when visitors stay still and are not distracted by the wonders of the Trail, so this is a great time to collect some **valuable data** and let them know about our **Enchanted Trail Raffle**.

- Imagine that the Audubon classroom is divided into four quadrants. You will be responsible for surveying participants in your quarter of the room.
- As visitors create their mask, strike up a conversation! You will have a few pieces of data to collect - if the visitor is here for their first time, how they heard about the event, if they'd come again, if they learned anything and what, etc.
- Try to keep things conversational rather than making it feel like a formal survey.
- Survey visitors of all ages.
- Do your best to get an answer to each question, but if you miss one it's OK! Incomplete surveys are still useful.
- During your conversation, tell visitors about the Enchanted Trail Raffle basket and their chance to win. Encourage them to fill out a raffle ticket to enter.
- There is no charge to enter the raffle.
- The raffle ticket will ask for a few pieces of information including the visitor's name, zip code, contact information, and how he or she heard about the event.
- If the classroom isn't busy or if you have already spoken to everyone, feel free to move around the event to seek out more entries. However, you'll likely have the best luck inside the building.

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You will be assisting with the **Night Hike** - A 20 to 25 minute self-guided walk through 6 stations along the trails north of the Audubon Center/South of the Salt River. Each station is focused on different nocturnal (night-active) wildlife native to Arizona (Snakes, Coyote and Ringtail, Badger and Skunk, Owls, Insects and Arachnids, and the Toad Farm!) The trail runs in a loop - ending where it begins.

## Night Hike Greeter:

You will be serving as a greeter for the Enchanted Trail night hike. As the greeter, you will need to provide visitors with the information and equipment they'll need to enjoy the hike. In this position you will need to be outgoing, positive, and proactive - you want to send participants down the trail with happy and well-informed!

- Welcome participants
- Explain to participants that the night hike is self-guided and follows our trails through six staffed stations - each with a station leader wearing a reflective vest.
- Explain to visitors that each station is focused on different nocturnal wildlife native to Arizona (Snakes, Coyote & Ringtail, Badger, Owls, Insects and the Toad Farm!)
- Tell participants that the hike will take between 20 and 25 minutes
- Tell participants to stay on the trails and stop at each of the 6 stations.
- Hand out flashlights to each guest. (Use discretion when handing flashlights to visitors under 5.)
- Tell visitors to return flashlights to you or one of our night hike assistants at the end of the hike.
- Hold back groups until the first station is clear. Then, direct them to the first station.
- When visitors finish the hike, work with the Night Hike Assistants to collect the flashlights.
- Be sure to warmly thank all participants for coming to Enchanted Trail!

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## Night Hike Station Leader:

You will be serving as a Station Leader for the Enchanted Trail night hike. In this position, you will greet and educate visitors as they reach your assigned Night Hike Station. The purpose of the night-hike is to introduce participants to Arizona's nocturnal wildlife, and it's your job to provide a "critter encounter" at your assigned station.

As a Night Hike Station Leader, you will need to be positive, proactive, outgoing, able to manage time, able to give instructions, and knowledgeable about nocturnal critters. (Ask for the Night Hike Notes!)

- Be prepared with sturdy footwear, a powerful and reliable flashlight, a vest, and a cell phone.
- Greet participants as they arrive.
- Each group should have at least one flashlight. If they don't, advise them to find a Night Hike Assistant or Greeter.
- Create a "discovery moment" with your station's props.
- Answer questions as appropriate. Do not hesitate to direct participants to seek an expert at one of Enchanted Trail's live animal exhibits!
- Remember, the hike should take about 20 to 25 minutes, so manage your time accordingly.
- Direct participants to the next station and remind them to stay on the trails.
- Be sure to warmly thank all participants for coming to Enchanted Trail!

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## Night Hike Assistant:

You will be serving as a Assistant for the Enchanted Trail night hike. In this position, you will be helping the Night Hike Greeters and Station Leaders. Your primary roles will be to provide instructions, keep groups organized and close to the Night Hike Leaders when stopped, and ensure that ALL FLASHLIGHTS ARE COLLECTED.

- Be prepared with sturdy footwear, a powerful and reliable flashlight, and a cell phone.
- Walk the trail to make sure that everything is going smoothly (take turns, do NOT leave the greeter without an assistant!).
- Collect all flashlights as visitors complete the hike and return them to the Night Hike Greeters.
- If you notice traffic jams, advise the Night Hike Leaders to either lengthen or shorten their station's experience.
- Each group should have at least one flashlight. If they don't, provide them with one. Always have a few flashlights on hand as Night Hike Leaders may send people your way.
- Answer questions as appropriate. Do not hesitate to direct participants to seek an expert at one of Enchanted Trail's live animal exhibits!
- Direct participants to stay on the trails as they travel from station to station.
- Be sure to warmly thank all participants for coming to Enchanted Trail!

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## Night Hike Notes

### Station I: Snakes

#### **Gophersnake**

- Often mistaken for a rattlesnake, but is non-venomous
- Imitates rattlesnakes by flattening its head, hissing, and vibrating its tail
- Eats rattlesnakes, rodents, rabbits, birds, eggs, and other reptiles
- Can reach a length of 6 feet or more - one of Arizona's biggest snakes!
- Beneficial to humans because it controls rodent and rattlesnake populations

#### **Rattlesnake**

- Scientists have identified 36 species of rattlesnakes, 13 of which you can find in Arizona - more than any other state!
- Rattlesnakes only live in North, Central, and South America.
- Rattlesnakes use the "loreal pit," a heat-sensing organ between the nostril and eye to locate prey and potential predators.
- These snakes have glands that make venom, much like human saliva glands make saliva.
- Rattlesnakes are venomous, not poisonous. Venomous things inject venom. Poisonous things are dangerous when eaten. So, there's actually no such thing as a poisonous snake!
- The rattle is made of keratin, the same material found in human hair and fingernails.
- The age of a rattlesnake cannot be determined by counting the segments of its rattle.
- Rattlesnake prey may include small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and centipedes.
- According to Arizona Poison Centers, less than 1% of rattlesnake bites result in human deaths.
- The Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake can grow to over 6 feet long and is the largest rattlesnake in the United States. They are larger than Arizona's Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.

#### **Coral Snake**

- The only snake in Arizona other than rattlesnakes with venom that is dangerous to humans.
- The Coral Snake is in the family Elapidae - along with the Cobras.
- Coral Snakes are fossorial, meaning they spend most of their time underground.
- Coral snakes eat primarily other fossorial snakes such as groundsnakes and threadsnakes.

#### **Sidewinder**

- One of our smaller rattlesnakes - easily identified by the horn-like scales above its eyes.
- Found primarily in low lying desert where it is a denizen of sandy areas.
- Gets its name from the way it moves when avoiding predators - sideways!

**THANK YOU** for volunteering at this year's Enchanted Trail!

October 20 & 21, 2017  
5:30-8:00pm

## Night Hike Notes

### Station 2: Coyote and Ringtail Cat

#### **Coyote**

- Native to North America with an expanding range.
- Has a very wide diet including rodents, birds, reptiles, snakes, arthropods like large insects and arachnids. They've even been known to scavenge unattended dog food left in people's backyards.
- Den in burrows or within thick vegetation.
- Active at night (nocturnal) during the warmer months, but can be found out during the day (diurnal) during the cooler ones.
- One of most vocal north American mammals - 11 different calls
- Social units are formed around females. Sometimes they will form packs.
- In some areas, Coyotes will form close hunting relationships with badgers. (The badgers are great at digging up prey but are poor chasers while Coyotes aren't as skilled at digging but can run down the prey - not a pair you want to meet if you're a jackrabbit!)

#### **Ringtail Cat**

- Arizona's State mammal.
- While it does resemble a cat, it is more closely related to the raccoon.
- Grooms itself much like a cat.
- Active at night (nocturnal)
- Stalks and pounces on its prey like a cat.
- Mostly solitary.
- Lives in rocky crevices within steep canyons surrounding rocky stream beds.
- Eats insects, scorpions, small rodents, birds, eggs and some cactus fruit.
- Known as the "miners cat"; used by miners to control rodents and other vermin in their homes.

**THANK YOU** for volunteering at this year's Enchanted Trail!

## Night Hike Notes

### Station 3: Badger and Skunk

#### **Badger**

- Is easy to identify with its short stature, short and powerful legs, large claws, and striped face.
- Eats a variety of food including rodents, insects, reptiles, roots, and fruit. They get most of their food underground.
- Spends much of its time in underground burrows.
- Active at night (nocturnal).

#### **Striped Skunk**

- Common over much of the United States.
- Usually dens in burrows abandoned by other mammals or in hollow logs.
- Has a wide diet including vegetation, fruits, berries, eggs, carrion, insects, and rodents.
- They can deliver 5 to 6 jets of smelly spray up to fifteen feet.
- They are protective of their young and will fight off other predators.
- Their most common predator is the Great Horned Owl (they can't smell!)
- Black and white coloration advertises, "don't mess with me!"
- There are four species of skunk in Arizona - striped, spotted, hog-nosed, and hooded.

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## Night Hike Notes

### Station 4: Owls

#### **Great Horned Owl**

- Most common owl in North America.
- Active at dawn and dusk (crepuscular) and also late at night (nocturnal).
- Named for its large ear tufts.
- Primarily eats rabbits and mice but will sometimes hunt other prey like smaller owls and reptiles.
- Has a wingspan of 3-5 feet and has specialized feathers that allow them to fly quietly.
- Claws or talons can crush the skulls of its prey.
- Sometimes called the “hoot owl” because of its haunting “hoot, hoot, hoot” calls at night.

#### **Barn Owl**

- Lives over most of the world’s continents except Antarctica (called a cosmopolitan species).
- Has a heart-shaped facial disk (the feathers around its face) that help it to funnel sound to their ears.
- Their center talon has serrated edge like a steak knife. This specialized talon is used for grooming facial disk feathers.
- Active at night (nocturnal) and eats small mammals/rodents.
- Mate for life.
- Call is a loud screeching sound.

#### **Elf Owl**

- Nest and roosts in tree cavities and Saguaro Cactus and Sycamore trees.
- Is active at night (nocturnal) and eats insects i.e. centipedes, scorpions, etc.
- Is North America’s smallest owl at 5.75 inches.
- It’s call is a series of whistled notes and also a sharp high bark.
- Migrate from Central and Southern Mexico.



## Night Hike Notes

### Station 5: Insects and Arachnids

Desert insects and arachnids such as scorpions, centipedes, spiders and crickets are food sources for many of the animals you have seen this evening.

The venom that Scorpions, Centipedes and some spiders use to kill their prey is sometimes toxic to humans. If you or a child has been stung or bitten by one of these and is having trouble breathing or in sever pain seek medical care or call 911 if urgent.

#### **Scorpions**

- There are over 40 species of scorpion in Arizona.
- Bark, Stripe-Tailed, and Giant Desert Hairy scorpions are the most common in Phoenix.
- In Arizona, only one scorpion is known to be “medically significant” - the Bark Scorpion.
- The Giant Desert Hairy scorpion is the largest in the United States.
- When put under ultraviolet light (black light) scorpions glow a bright bluish green.
- Nocturnal.
- Spend the day under rocks, in cracks and crevices, or under debris and sand.

#### **Tarantulas**

- One of the largest spiders in Arizona (Crab and Wolf Spiders can be just as big!).
- Have a fairly mild bite - often compared to a bee sting.
- Spend most of their lives in underground burrows.
- During the breeding season, males come to the surface and can be seen in large numbers.
- Males live only a few years, but females can live over 20.

#### **Centipedes**

- Have existed for over 400 million years - making them one of the oldest land-dwelling animals.
- Common centipedes in Phoenix include the House Centipede, Varied Centipede, and Giant Desert Centipede
- Arizona Centipedes do not have a dangerous bite, but they are very, very painful.

## Night Hike Notes

### Station 6: Toads

People are often surprised to know that several toads live in the Desert. Their behavior and life cycle is often tied to the Two Monsoon seasons in Arizona. Many emerge at the beginning of our summer monsoon season. They seek out temporary pools to find a mate and breed and their offspring must transform from an egg, to a tadpole, to an adult toad before the puddles dry up. Once the desert goes dry, these toads burrow deep underground until the summer rains return. They have many adaptations, including the ability to secrete a water-saving slimy coat, to keep them alive and well during this long hibernation. When caught or handled, some toads will swell up, void their bladder (pee - a lot!), or secrete poisonous oils from their skin.

#### **Woodhouse Toad**

- One of Arizona's most common toads
- Has a loud, scream-like call
- Has displaced the Arizona Toad as flowing streams have been dammed or otherwise altered.

#### **Sonoran Desert Toad**

- Arizona's largest toad
- Adults are a solid, clay-like green while juveniles are spotted. The pattern slowly fades as the animal ages.
- Is known for the poisonous secretions it releases from its large, obvious white glands.

#### **Red-Spotted Toad**

- One of Arizona's smaller toads.
- Named for the many red spots, or tubercles, on its skin.
- Is extremely fast to develop from an egg to an adult, allowing it to breed in temporary desert pools.
- Has a call that sounds similar to a finger running quickly over a plastic comb.

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