



Montana  
Audubon

## **Montana Audubon Education Program**

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### **Guiding Philosophy**

Audubon's education programs follow in the tradition of this country's earliest American explorer's, naturalists, and conservation leaders such as Muir, Bartram, Leopold, and John James Audubon. Birds and general ecological studies remain a tenant of all Audubon education programs, yet our programs are fundamentally committed to enriching personal discovery in the backyard, a city park, or a wilderness area. Our programs shall inspire by raising awareness, environmental literacy and building the skills necessary for people to take informed action for the benefit of wildlife.

**Education Program Guiding Principles:** Guiding the development of all Audubon education programs are the following five principles:

- 1. Outdoor Experiential Learning* - People must have direct and frequent contact with the natural world through active experiential learning;
- 2. Interactive, inquiry-based, hands-on* - Our programs actively engage participants in exploring the natural world through guided and self-guided inquiry;
- 3. Community-based and regionally focused* - Audubon works in partnership with local individuals, schools, and organizations in order to shape education programs and achieve conservation goals;
- 4. Science-based/Integrated Interdisciplinary Approach* - Our connections to the land and commitments to conservation facilitate education along many paths. Audubon's environmental education programs embrace and integrate many disciplines in the sciences and humanities, but always with a foundation in science;
- 5. Leading to Action* - Audubon's educational programs inspire and promote personal conservation behavior. We provide the knowledge, skills, and tools for people to take informed action for the benefit of wildlife and a sustainable, healthy environment.