



NATIONAL AVIARY
PITTSBURGH, PA

2025-2026

School & Community Programs

Pre-K through Grade 12

Presented by 

aviary.org ■ 412-258-9439



Reserve your program and date using our easy 4-step method

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Bring Science to Life!

Education Programs at the National Aviary meet the needs of learners of all levels and abilities. We connect your students to concepts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability (STEELS) as well as math, geography, wildlife conservation, and more! Our team is ready to engage your students in the discovery of the natural world with the importance of protecting wildlife in mind.

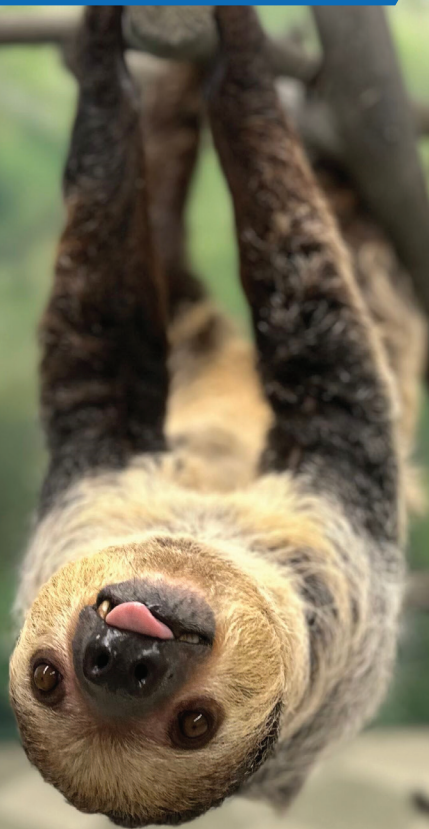
We offer a variety of educational opportunities including:

- Age-appropriate, curriculum-aligned classroom and assembly educational programs
- Options to schedule your program at your facility or at the National Aviary
- Self-guided experiences, including curriculum-based activity guides
- Engaging experiences including immersive habitats, live shows, and meeting Animal Ambassadors
- Easy scheduling
- Flexibility that supports the needs of groups requiring accommodation. Contact us or visit the Accessibility page on our website for more information: www.aviary.org/visit/accessibility



1

Choose Your Package



Visit the National Aviary

- **Education Program**

Our Aviary educators guide your students through an interactive standards-based classroom or assembly program focusing on the topic of your choice*. These programs are private for your group and feature age-appropriate activities, discussions, and explorations, as well as a visit from a live Animal Ambassador.

- **A Teacher's Guide to the Aviary**
(for Elementary and Middle School Grades)

Make the Aviary your classroom with age-appropriate resource kits and go at your own pace! During this activity, perfect for large groups, your students will learn about concepts in science as they discover the wonderful world of birds. We provide you with a resource kit, which includes pre-visit and post-visit activities and an onsite educational guide to use as you travel through the Aviary.

**See Part 2: Choose Your Program on page 5 for program topics and descriptions.*



...or have the National Aviary come to you!

- Classroom and Assembly Outreach Programs**

Let our educators bring all of the fun and learning of a National Aviary program to you! Our friendly and professional educators engage your students during curriculum-aligned programs featuring interactive activities, discussion, and a visit from a National Aviary Animal Ambassador!

- CyBIRD Virtual Distance Learning**

This program offers exciting and fun lessons on a variety of topics, and is perfect for groups not able to visit in person. Enjoy the same rich curriculum and a virtual visit from an Animal Ambassador, as our expert educator engages with you via an online platform!

Package	Location	Pricing
Group Admission + Education Program + Live Immersive Bird Show	National Aviary	\$16 per person
Group Admission + Education Program	National Aviary	\$14 per person
Group Admission + Live Immersive Bird Show	National Aviary	\$14 per person
Group Admission + Teacher's Guide	National Aviary	\$13 per person
Group Admission Only	National Aviary	\$13 per person
Classroom Outreach* (up to 35 students)	Your School	First program \$300 Second program \$240**
Assembly Outreach* (more than 35 students)	Your School	First program \$475 Second program \$375**
CyBIRD Virtual Program	Virtual	\$150
Wings Around the World* (up to 30 students)	Your School + National Aviary	\$1,100 per classroom

*Available at facilities within 30 miles of the National Aviary

**Discounted rate available for programs scheduled for two different groups of students within one hour of each other at the same location.

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Choose Your Program

Unless otherwise noted, all program topics are available at the Aviary, at your facility, or virtually.



Preschool & Kindergarten

These interactive programs can be held at the National Aviary or at your school unless noted.

- **Nature's Diner (30 minutes)**

Through puppets, props, and a visit from an Animal Ambassador, a National Aviary educator introduces children to different birds, their foods, and how different types of birds use their beaks to eat.

- **Rainbows in Flight (30 minutes)**

Discover how important colors are to the animal world by exploring the huge variety in feathers—from the bright colors of a parrot to the muted camouflage of an owl. Meet a live Animal Ambassador and learn how its coloration helps it to survive and thrive in its own special way.

- **Penguin Pals (30 minutes)**

Attention all penguin protectors! Penguin Ranger Penelope needs your help to find and protect the penguins! Through an exploration of penguins, children will learn the features that set them apart from other birds, and what makes them unique! This program includes a visit from an African Penguin Animal Ambassador.

Elementary School (Grades 1-5)

These interactive programs can be held at the National Aviary or at your school unless noted.

- **Amazing Adaptations: Elementary Format (45 minutes)**

Birds are equipped with traits that help them survive in their natural habitats. Students discover what these unique characteristics are and explore amazing feet, feathers, and beaks!

- **Habitats (45 minutes)**

From the frigid arctic to arid deserts, birds can be found in nearly every habitat on Earth! Learn what an animal needs to survive in different habitats and how birds can thrive in even the most extreme environments.

- **Owls (45 minutes)**

Owls are some of the most recognizable birds on Earth, yet they remain elusive to many because of their habits and behaviors. Learn about the diversity of this remarkable group across the globe and close to home and discover the amazing adaptations that make them successful hunters, day and night!

- **Rainforests (45 minutes)**

Discover rainforest habitats through the eyes of the birds who live there. Students examine how rainforests, home to nearly half the world's plant and animal species, support ecological balance and why they are so important to protect.

- **Penguin Protectors (30 minutes)**

Penguin Rangers in South Africa need your help to become Special Agents of Penguin protection! During this program, students will investigate penguin adaptations while learning how rangers use their expertise to protect penguins. This program includes a visit from an African Penguin Animal Ambassador.





Middle School (Grades 6-8)

These interactive programs can be held at the National Aviary or at your school unless noted.

- **Habitats: Middle School Format (45 minutes)**
From the frigid arctic to arid deserts birds can be found in nearly every habitat on Earth! Learn what an animal needs to survive in different habitats, and how birds can thrive in even the most extreme environments.
- **Birds and Conservation: Middle School Format (45 minutes)**
Explore the impacts humans and environmental factors have on the decline of various species, and discover how the conservation efforts of zoos, scientists, and everyday community members have led once-endangered species to make a comeback.
- **Brilliant Birds: The Science of Feathers, Color & Survival (45 minutes)**
Unlock the hidden world of avian color and adaptation! In this interactive program, students dive into the vibrant lives of birds—from ultraviolet vision to feather pigments—and discover how these fascinating features help birds thrive. Through hands-on exploration and real-world connections, students learn how color plays a powerful role in survival, communication, and the search for food and mates.



High School (Grades 9-12)

These interactive programs can be held at the National Aviary or at your school unless noted.

- **Zoo Careers (45 minutes)**

Do your students wonder what it's like to be a zoo veterinarian? What about a zookeeper? What other career opportunities are there at zoos? In this program we'll explore some of the tools of the trade and learn all about zoo careers and what it takes to work in a zoo environment.

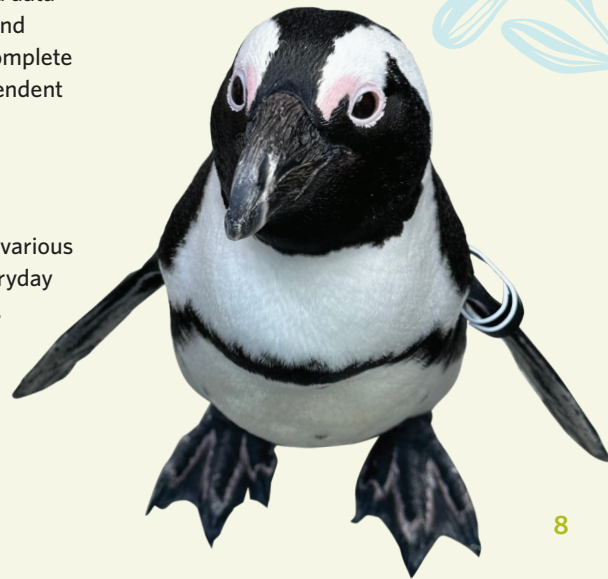
- **Science and Animal Behavior (45 minutes)**

How do scientists study birds? Students will implement the same methods and data collection techniques that ornithologists use. Your group will watch the birds and animals who live in the National Aviary's immersive, free-flight habitats and complete ethograms on what they see. A combination of classroom activities and independent observation work encourages students to think like scientists.

(Available only at the Aviary for groups of 35 or fewer)

- **Birds and Conservation: High School Format (45 minutes)**

Explore the impacts humans and environmental factors have on the decline of various species, and discover how the conservation efforts of zoos, scientists, and everyday community members have led once-endangered species to make a comeback.



3

Enhance Your Visit With a Dynamic Live Immersive Bird Show!



This live, immersive bird show is an educational experience that allows students to learn about world wonders alongside the bird species who call them home...all without leaving Pittsburgh! Students will delight in the sights and sounds of national parks: from the Gray Crowned-Crane of Zimbabwe, to the Curl-crested Aracari in Peru. Through thrilling up-close flights, scientific concepts like adaptations will come to life for your students. Plus, students will learn how all of us can help protect these extraordinary species.

Offered at the National Aviary only.



Wings Around the World Experience

Explore the World of Birds — At School and Beyond!

In this dynamic, multi-touchpoint experience designed for 1st–3rd grade students, young learners will dive into the fascinating world of birds both near and far. The program begins with **two engaging in-classroom visits featuring a live Animal Ambassador**, giving students an up-close introduction to avian life.

During the first visit, each classroom will receive a **schoolyard bird feeder and a custom bird identification guide**—tools that encourage students to observe and appreciate the birds in their own backyards.

The experience culminates with an **exciting field trip to the Aviary**, where students will deepen their understanding of birds' vital roles in the environment, the conservation challenges they face, and what we can do to help. The field trip includes an educational program with another animal ambassador, self-guided exploration of the Aviary's diverse habitats, and a thrilling **live, immersive bird show** (learn more on page 9).



4

Reserve Your Date



Book Your Visit

The National Aviary Education Program schedule fills up fast! To ensure the greatest availability, we recommend contacting us to register **at least 6 weeks in advance** of your program or visit. To allow time to process your request, we require a **minimum of 2 weeks' advance notice** to schedule your outreach program or to visit the Aviary.

1. We have three convenient ways to begin your reservation process:

- Use the online form by scanning the QR code, or go to www.aviary.org/Education.Group.Inquiry
- Email education.programs@aviary.org
- Call the Education Sales Team at **412-258-9439**



Please be ready with the following information:

- Organization name
- Program package and preferred topic, if applicable
- Number of students and adults
- Top three choices for the date of your onsite program or our visit to you
- Arrival and departure time for field trip visits
- Program time for outreach programs at your facility

2. A member of our Education Programs team will contact you after receipt of your completed inquiry to confirm the details of your reservation and to answer any questions you may have.
3. A field trip agreement will be emailed for you to review and sign.
4. Return the signed agreement to finalize your reservation.
5. Your final count of students and adults along with payment are due at least two weeks prior to the scheduled program or visit. Payment is non-refundable.
6. Please contact us by phone or email if you have questions at any point in the registration process. We are happy to help you!





National Aviary Chaperone Requirements

Preschool and Kindergarten groups: 1 adult chaperone for every 5 children.

1st-12th grade: 1 adult chaperone for every 10 students.

These chaperones, along with the bus driver, receive complimentary admission. If your organization requires a higher chaperone to student ratio, please plan your visit in accordance with that policy. Chaperones must remain with their groups at all times during your National Aviary visit. To ensure a safe and fun visit for all National Aviary guests, all members of your party must follow National Aviary Guest Policies as outlined on our website www.aviary.org/about-us/guest-policies-faqs.

Outreach Guidelines

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our animals and of your participants, please plan to provide the following for the Outreach team:

- A legal parking space close to the entrance of your facility
- A safe holding area for birds before and during the program, sufficiently sheltered from direct sunlight and weather
- A presentation space with no moving ceiling fans, balloons, objects hanging from the ceiling, or other animals, a 6'-8' table, and a secure stage area that prevents people from walking behind the birds & our educators
- Chaperones in accordance with your organization's policies, and at minimum of one adult for every 25 children

Group Visit Requirements

To qualify for the discounted group rate, the minimum group size for field trips and other groups is 15 paying participants. All members of your group must arrive at the same time.

Payment

To qualify for the discounted group rate, a final count and full payment must be received at least 2 weeks in advance of your program or visit date. Your organization will be charged for the number of people indicated on the invoice by this deadline. If payment is not received, your reservation is subject to cancellation or rescheduling. A member of our team will verify the number of people in your group upon arrival. Any members of your group in excess of the final count are welcome to purchase regular price individual tickets at our Guest Services Desk. Refunds are not provided if actual attendance is lower than indicated in your final count. Thank you for your support of the National Aviary!

ALLERGY NOTICE: *The National Aviary is NOT an allergen-free facility, as many of our birds' diets include nuts, seeds, and other potential human allergens.*

FLASH WARNING: *Standard showings of Passport to Parks contain flashing lights that may affect those with photo sensitivities.*

Questions?

Please contact our Education
Sales Coordinators at **412-258-9439**
or **education.programs@aviary.org**.

