

STAY GROUNDED:

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR BECY PROGRAM GRADUATES



*A rock can change a river, a seed can change a landscape,
and you can change the future.*



BORDERLANDS
RESTORATION
NETWORK



Introduction

The summer that I was 18 years old, I joined the Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) program with no previous background in environmental science, and no plans to pursue a career in conservation. I had just graduated from Rio Rico High School and thought I wanted to be an English teacher. I hadn't grown up camping or even spending much time outdoors. But that summer as a BECY intern changed everything.



BRN introduced me to the unique beauty and biocultural complexity of the Sky Islands, the interconnectedness of people and place, and the many pathways that exist to work and make a difference in ecological restoration, conservation, and sustainability. I remember the long, hot days working alongside my cohort, laughing in the van, swapping stories around camp, and learning from passionate people whose life's work was to protect landscapes, save endangered species, and build resilient communities. I discovered the joy of working with my hands, the awe of learning about our region's flora and fauna, and the responsibility we share as stewards of these unique and threatened landscapes.

Those moments defined my path. I changed my major to Sustainability with an emphasis in Ecology, earned my Master's in Sustainability Solutions at Arizona State University, and returned home to the Borderlands to work with BRN, and now serve as the Education Program Manager. My goal then, as it is now, is to give back to my community, mentor youth and young professionals, and help others discover work that aligns with their values, skills, and passions.

This resource guide was created to further support you on your journey of exploring your interests, honing your skills, and finding ways to contribute to your community or workplace in meaningful ways. Inside, you'll find a breadth of opportunities across businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and academia, organized by state, county, and Sonora, Mexico. Topics are interdisciplinary and span education, conservation, research, citizen science, and social and environmental justice. You'll find places to visit and learn from, field resources, job boards, scholarships, and internships.

Whatever you're interested in, whatever you're good at, there is a place for you to contribute to building resilience in your communities and your natural environment. My hope is that this guide helps you see the possibilities, connect with people who inspire you, and find something you love doing with others who also share your passion. You matter, your work matters, and the world needs your unique contribution.

Be inspired and stay in touch!

Jordan Sene

Education Program Manager

Borderlands Restoration Network



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This resource guide is current as of the date of publication, August 2025, and is intended as a starting point for further exploration. Users are encouraged to conduct their own research to ensure accuracy and relevance, as programs and opportunities may change over time.

STAY CONNECTED TO BRN



BORDERLANDS
RESTORATION
NETWORK

REBUILD. RESTORE. RECONNECT.

We partner to grow a restorative economy by rebuilding healthy ecosystems, restoring habitat for plants and wildlife, and reconnecting our border communities to the land through shared learning.

Follow Us



www.borderlandsrestoration.org



[@borderlandsresoration](https://www.instagram.com/borderlandsresoration) , Native Plant Program - [@borderlandsplants](https://www.instagram.com/borderlandsplants)



[Borderlands Restoration Network](https://www.facebook.com/BorderlandsRestorationNetwork)



[Borderlands Restoration Network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/BorderlandsRestorationNetwork)



[@borderlandsrestorationnetw719](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCborderlandsrestorationnetw719)

Visit the [Borderlands Wildlife Preserve](#)

The Sky Islands, encompassing more than thirty mountain ranges, are recognized as a globally-significant biodiversity hotspot. However, the valleys connecting the ranges are highly threatened by development and fragmentation.

As a segment of the larger Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor, the 1800 acre and growing Borderlands Wildlife Preserve is permanently protected and managed to conserve critical wildlife habitat and to maintain a route for migratory species.



The Borderlands Wildlife Preserve is owned by Wildlife Corridors, LLC and managed in partnership with Borderlands Restoration Network.



LOCATION



wildlife@borderlandsrestoration.org



Open 7 days a week, no overnight camping



Native Plant Program

The Borderlands Restoration Network Native Plant Program is your source for pollinator-safe, chemical-free native plants and seeds from Southeastern Arizona. Purchases support ongoing ecological restoration in the borderlands

NPP's mission is to promote and protect biodiversity by providing individuals, communities, and land managers access to restoration-quality plant materials and guidance for effective use. We offer organically grown plants and seeds specific to the Madrean Archipelago's semi-arid highlands, focusing on those with high habitat value and in-situ survival rates.



42 San Antonio Road, Patagonia, AZ 85624



Open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday
from 9 AM - 12 PM



Check out the website for information on plants in the shop, plant sales, special events, and workshops.
www.borderlandsplants.org

NURSERY VOLUNTEER

 Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9 AM - Noon, year-round

Spend your morning at the BRN Native Plant Nursery with a great group of plant lovers propagating native plants. Bring water, and be prepared to get your hands in the dirt and ready for some outdoor work.

SEED LAB VOLUNTEER

 Mondays: 9 AM - Noon

Join us at the BRN Seed Lab for a morning of seed lab activities! Help us clean the native seeds that we have collected from the area and be part of the restoration process, as well as help with germination testing, seed sowing, seed packing, seed pelletization, and more.

Please bring a mask for respiratory protection as the work can be dusty, water/snacks, and a long-sleeved over shirt to protect from dust irritation. Seed cleaning is all indoors, with outdoor options.

 Contact horticulture@borderlandsrestoration.org to join the volunteer list!

Watershed Restoration Program

The Madrean Archipelago, or Sky Islands is one of the most ecologically diverse and rich landscapes in North America. Due to historic overgrazing, drought, and climate change these lands face stress and degradation. The Watershed Restoration Program takes a multi-pronged approach to restoring degraded landscapes to a trajectory of recovery and climate resiliency. BRN works with nonprofits, government and state agencies, and individuals to repair and protect our landscapes.

Since its inception, the Watershed Restoration Program has installed over 4,000 erosion control structures across southeastern Arizona improving hydrologic function and soil conditions to enhance wildlife habitat and recharge shallow groundwater tables.

Visit the website for more information on reading the landscape, building erosion control structures, and workshop opportunities.



Education Program

BRN's Education Program comprises place-based educational programs built around a common curriculum covering the restoration of watersheds, ecosystems, and communities, providing a culturally relevant context.



Our programs have taught more than 2,000 participants through hands-on learning, workshops, internships, programs, and outreach for youth through adults.

These opportunities help shape participants' views of the environment they live in and the role they each play as stewards in their communities. By providing technical skills and training and connecting our participants to professional and informal community networks, they are more prepared and energized to act.

Visit the website for more information on our ongoing programs: Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) paid internship and the Borderlands Field Course.

INTERNSHIPS

Learn new skills and gain valuable experience by working with our staff through internship opportunities. Available internships will be posted on our website's job opportunities page as they become available, or contact info@borderlandsrestoration.org to inquire about your specific internship needs.

Borderlands Earth Care Center (BECC)

This environmental education hub will be accessible to everyone from Santa Cruz County and visiting groups from the Sky Islands region and beyond to showcase our applied curriculum through demonstrations and workshops. Topics will include watershed management, soil healing techniques, rainwater harvesting, fostering native flora and fauna, and permaculture and sustainability practices.



BECC is being designed with community and stakeholder input. BRN aims to have an accessible demonstration hub for restoration knowledge and community engagement. We want to plant the permaculture principles of earth care, people care, and fair share in our visitors' hearts and minds, equipping them with technical skills and the interpersonal connections to foster ongoing community resilience.

For further information about BECC, contact kbarbaree@borderlandsrestoration.org.

CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT

State-Wide

[Arizona Association for Environmental Education](#)

The Arizona Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to enhance the quality of Environmental Education and to advance the professionalism of those who work or volunteer as Environmental Educators in Arizona. We are one of the 56 Affiliates within the Affiliate Network of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).



[Arizona Master Naturalist Association](#)

Certified Arizona Master Naturalists provide education, outreach, and interpretive services to a variety of stakeholders, including, but not limited to, education entities, state and city government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Arizona Master Naturalists also participate in the stewardship of natural and cultural resources by participating in activities designed to do so. Arizona Master Naturalists contribute to increased and evolving scientific understanding of the region through participation in citizen science initiatives.



[Arizona Land and Water Trust](#)

A respected Southern Arizona nonprofit, active since 1978, that partners with ranchers, farmers, and public agencies to conserve the region's natural landscapes, wildlife habitats, and vital water resources through voluntary conservation easements. With more than 56,000 acres already protected in Cochise and surrounding counties, ALWT works collaboratively to prevent development, maintain open grasslands and ranchlands, and safeguard both surface and groundwater systems. While their primary effort is land acquisition and stewardship rather than direct public programming, ALWT supports community education and engagement by facilitating conservation planning, offering expert support to landowners, and often collaborating with research institutions, agencies, and local groups. Volunteers may assist with outreach events, land management planning, and stewardship activities on conserved properties, helping reinforce a culture of private-land conservation and resource protection across Southern Arizona.



Bat Conservation International (BCI)

U.S.-based nonprofit dedicated to conserving bats and their ecosystems worldwide. Founded in 1982 and headquartered in Austin, Texas, BCI collaborates with partners to implement science-based conservation strategies, including habitat protection, disease mitigation, and research on bat populations. Their efforts aim to prevent bat extinctions and promote healthy ecosystems



Chispa Arizona

Latinx-run grassroots organization that actively engages in environmental advocacy by organizing campaigns and events that promote clean air, water, and energy. In addition to policy advocacy, Chispa Arizona fosters youth engagement through various programs and activities. The organization hosts “entry points”—community-focused events such as wilderness hikes, trash clean-ups, and gardening workshops—to educate and involve young people in environmental issues. These events serve as accessible introductions to environmental activism, encouraging youth participation and leadership.



Chispa Arizona also offers internship opportunities, such as the Community Organizing Internship, which provides hands-on experience in grassroots organizing, campaign involvement, and leadership development. Interns work closely with organizing committees and participate in various environmental justice campaigns, gaining valuable skills and insights into the intersection of environmental issues and social equity.

GreenLatinos

A national network of Latino/a/x environmental and climate justice leaders dedicated to advancing equity, sustainability, and community resilience. While their primary initiatives have been concentrated in urban areas such as Los Angeles, Albuquerque, and Chicago, GreenLatinos’ mission encompasses support for Latino communities across the United States, including those in Arizona and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.



Hummingbird Conservation Networks

Operate monitoring sites across Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise Counties, as well as locations throughout the Rocky Mountain region. They collect data on hummingbird populations and habitats through community-based banding and observation. Volunteers can assist with seasonal monitoring, and the organization offers field workshops on hummingbird identification and banding techniques, ideal for those interested in wildlife research or citizen science.



[The Cultural Conservancy](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection, revitalization, and promotion of Indigenous cultures, languages, and sacred lands. Their mission is to support Indigenous communities in preserving traditional knowledge, fostering cultural resilience, and safeguarding their ancestral territories through education, advocacy, and sustainable practices.

They work closely with Native nations across the Americas to ensure cultural survival and environmental stewardship. People can engage with The Cultural Conservancy by participating in cultural programs, supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, attending workshops, or contributing to advocacy efforts.



[The National Forest Foundation \(NFF\)](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing America's National Forests and Grasslands. Working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, communities, and conservation groups, the NFF funds and implements projects that restore forest ecosystems, improve wildlife habitat, increase public access, and promote outdoor recreation. The foundation also engages the public through educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and stewardship campaigns that encourage people to connect with and care for these vital public lands. By supporting science-based conservation and community involvement, the NFF helps ensure that National Forests remain healthy and resilient for future generations.



[The Nature Conservancy](#)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters upon which all life depends for over 50 years. With a focus on sustainable land management, biodiversity protection, and climate change solutions, TNC works across various ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, wetlands, and marine environments. The organization partners with governments, businesses, and local communities to implement conservation strategies that ensure long-term ecological health. Career opportunities within TNC span a wide range of fields, including ecology, conservation science, environmental policy, sustainable agriculture, land management, and corporate partnerships.



[Sonoran Institute](#)

The Sonoran Institute is a Tucson and Phoenix-based nonprofit founded in 1990, focused on connecting communities throughout the Colorado River Basin to healthy natural systems by promoting sustainable water use, resilient landscapes, and equitable conservation. While it works across vast regions—including river restoration in the Santa Cruz watershed—its local presence includes educational initiatives such as "Growing Water Smart" workshops, public events (e.g., clean-ups, "River Day of Connection," Science Cafés), and art-nature programming that engage residents in river stewardship. Volunteers and



interns can participate in river clean-ups, assist with field research (e.g., trash surveys and data collection along the Santa Cruz River), database management, and help at community outreach events—gaining hands-on experience in watershed conservation, collaborative planning, and environmental education.

Wild Arizona

Nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, linking, and restoring wild lands and waters across Arizona. Established in 1979, it played a pivotal role in the designation of Arizona's 90 Wilderness Areas and the Wild & Scenic designation for Fossil Creek. Through its "Wild Stew" program, Wild Arizona organizes group volunteer events focused on trail maintenance, native habitat restoration, and data collection. Additionally, they offer individual volunteer opportunities such as solitude monitoring and invasive plant monitoring, allowing volunteers to engage in conservation efforts while enjoying outdoor activities. These initiatives provide hands-on experiences in wilderness stewardship and contribute to the preservation of Arizona's natural landscapes.



The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

A nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the natural world through the conservation of pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, and other beneficial invertebrates. Named after the now-extinct Xerces blue butterfly, the organization works at the intersection of science, advocacy, and habitat restoration to promote biodiversity and environmental sustainability. The Xerces Society helps farmers, land managers, and communities create healthy habitats through practices that support pollinator-friendly agriculture, protect endangered species, and reduce pesticide use.



Government

[Arizona Department of Environmental Quality \(ADEQ\)](#)



The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) works to protect and improve Arizona's air, land, and water through monitoring, regulation, and community engagement. In southern Arizona, the Southern Regional Office (SRO) in Tucson serves counties including Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Yuma, providing support on issues like air and water quality, waste management, and emergency environmental response.

A key part of this regional work is ADEQ's Border Programs Unit, which addresses environmental challenges along the U.S.-Mexico border. This unit partners with agencies in both countries to improve air quality, manage shared water resources, and reduce pollution in border communities. It also engages the public through outreach, education, and binational collaboration, helping residents understand and act on environmental concerns. These efforts ensure that border region communities benefit from a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment.

[Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management \(ADFFM\)](#)



A state agency responsible for managing Arizona's forests, wildlands, and fire protection efforts. The department works to protect and sustain Arizona's natural resources by preventing and managing wildfires, promoting forest health, and offering community education on fire safety and preparedness. DFFM plays a key role in wildfire suppression, habitat restoration, and the maintenance of firebreaks and other protective measures. Career opportunities within the department span a variety of fields, including wildland firefighting, forestry management, fire ecology, wildlife conservation, emergency management, and public outreach. Specific roles include firefighters, fire prevention specialists, forest technicians, engineers, forestry planners, and wildlife biologists.

[Arizona Department of Water Resources \(ADWR\)](#)



The state agency responsible for managing Arizona's water resources, ensuring the sustainable use of water for the environment, agriculture, industry, and urban communities. ADWR oversees water conservation, groundwater management, water rights, and the regulation of water resources to support long-term water security in a state where water scarcity is a critical issue. The agency plays a vital role in water planning, infrastructure development, and drought preparedness. Career opportunities within ADWR include roles such as hydrologists, water resource engineers, environmental planners, data analysts, regulatory specialists, and public outreach coordinators.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

The state agency responsible for managing and conserving Arizona's wildlife and fish populations, as well as their habitats. The department oversees hunting and fishing regulations, wildlife management, species conservation, and the restoration of native ecosystems across the state. AZGFD plays a key role in protecting endangered species, managing wildlife recreation, and educating the public about wildlife conservation. Career opportunities within the department include roles such as wildlife biologists, fishery managers, law enforcement officers, habitat restoration specialists, wildlife educators, and research scientists.



Arizona State Parks and Trails

A state agency responsible for managing and preserving over 30 state parks, recreation areas, and historic sites across Arizona. The agency focuses on conserving Arizona's natural and cultural resources while providing outdoor recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, boating, and wildlife viewing. Arizona State Parks and Trails also works to protect wildlife habitats, restore ecosystems, and offer environmental education programs for visitors. Career opportunities in this sector include roles such as park rangers, landscape architects, conservation technicians, recreation planners, historical preservation specialists, and environmental educators.



Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

A federal agency that manages over 245 million acres of public lands, primarily in the western United States, with a focus on sustainable land use, resource conservation, and recreational access. The BLM oversees a wide range of activities, including wildlife conservation, land restoration, grazing, mining, and energy development, while also protecting cultural and historical resources. Career opportunities within the BLM include roles such as natural resource specialists, wildlife biologists, range managers, park rangers, geologists, and environmental planners.



The National Park Service (NPS)

A federal agency responsible for managing and preserving the United States' national parks, monuments, historic sites, and other protected areas. Established in 1916, the NPS safeguards natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and recreational resources, ensuring they remain accessible and enjoyable for current and future generations. Through a wide range of programs, the NPS offers educational opportunities, ranger-led tours, volunteer projects, and community partnerships that promote environmental stewardship and historical awareness. Visitors can explore diverse ecosystems, learn about Native American history, and participate in activities like hiking, wildlife watching, and camping. The NPS plays a vital role in



conserving biodiversity, supporting outdoor recreation, and connecting people with the nation's rich natural and cultural heritage.

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9](#)

The Arizona Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) works in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address environmental issues affecting air, water, land, and ecosystems across the state. The office focuses on enforcing environmental regulations, promoting sustainability, improving air and water quality, and supporting community-level environmental programs. It plays a critical role in regulating hazardous waste management, overseeing clean-up efforts for polluted sites, and advancing public health initiatives related to environmental impacts. Career opportunities within this sector include roles such as environmental compliance specialists, air quality analysts, water resource managers, environmental engineers, public health advisors, and regulatory affairs specialists.



[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(FWS\) - Southwest Region](#)

A federal agency dedicated to protecting and conserving wildlife, plants, and their habitats across the United States. The agency focuses on endangered species recovery, habitat restoration, wildlife management, and environmental law enforcement. FWS manages national wildlife refuges, conducts scientific research on wildlife populations, and works to ensure sustainable practices in fishing, hunting, and conservation. Career opportunities within the Fish and Wildlife Service include roles such as wildlife biologists, environmental educators, law enforcement officers, refuge managers, habitat restoration specialists, and ecologists.



[U.S. Forest Service - U.S. Department of Agriculture - Southwestern Region](#)

The U.S. Forest Service Southwestern Region, also known as Region 3, manages national forests and grasslands across Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of Texas and Oklahoma. This district oversees millions of acres of diverse landscapes, including deserts, mountains, and high plains, supporting a wide range of ecosystems and recreational opportunities. The Southwestern Region focuses on sustainable forest management, wildfire prevention, habitat conservation, and community partnerships to preserve natural resources and ensure public access. Visitors to the region's website can find a wealth of information, including current fire restrictions, trail conditions, upcoming events, educational programs, and volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups interested in conservation and public service.



Pima County

[Altar Valley Conservation Alliance](#)

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (AVCA) is a nonprofit organization focused on preserving and restoring the natural and cultural resources of the Altar Valley in southern Arizona. The AVCA works with landowners, ranchers, and community members to protect critical wildlife habitats, improve water conservation practices, and promote sustainable land use. Their efforts emphasize the importance of native species conservation, riparian restoration, and rangeland health. For youth and young professionals, the AVCA offers a range of volunteer and internship opportunities, allowing participants to engage in hands-on conservation work, such as habitat restoration projects, wildlife monitoring, and community outreach. Additionally, the AVCA hosts educational events and workshops that help build awareness about the unique ecological challenges of the Altar Valley. By getting involved, individuals can contribute to meaningful conservation efforts and gain valuable experience in land stewardship and environmental management.



[Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum](#)

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson offers a variety of environmental education programs that engage visitors of all ages in learning about the unique ecosystems of the Sonoran Desert. These programs include interactive exhibits, guided tours, animal presentations, and hands-on activities designed to deepen understanding of desert wildlife, conservation, and sustainable practices. The museum also provides volunteer opportunities for individuals interested in supporting educational initiatives, from assisting with tours and workshops to participating in conservation efforts, helping to foster a deeper connection with the natural world.



[Center for Biological Diversity](#)

The Center for Biological Diversity is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting endangered species and ecosystems through legal advocacy, policy reform, and grassroots activism. The center uses legal tools, including lawsuits and petitions, to enforce environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act to secure protections for wildlife and their habitats. They also offer educational resources on wildlife conservation and sustainability, along with volunteer and internship opportunities focused on environmental law, advocacy, and public outreach. Volunteers can participate in campaigns, assist with research, and help advance policy changes, gaining hands-on experience in the legal aspects of environmental protection and conservation. This makes the Center for Biological Diversity a key resource for those interested in the intersection of law, policy, and wildlife conservation.



[The Cooper Center for Environmental Learning](#)

Operated by the University of Arizona College of Education, delivers immersive outdoor education programs at its Sonoran Desert campus seven miles west of downtown. Through internships like the Paul Lindsey Internship and UA-supported Coverdell Fellowship and LLI placements, participants co-create educational curricula, lead field trip activities, and support hands-on science outreach in desert ecology. The Center also offers volunteer opportunities, including buffelgrass removal and community outreach with local partners, and hosts educational activity centers for K-8 students during field trips at Camp Cooper. This makes Cooper Center a valuable resource for those seeking experiential learning, environmental education engagement, or early career involvement in desert restoration and ecology.



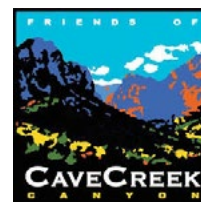
[Desert Harvesters](#)

A nonprofit focused on teaching and promoting the sustainable harvesting of native desert plants in the Sonoran Desert. Their mission is to reconnect people with traditional desert foods while protecting the environment. Volunteers can join workshops, guided foraging walks, seed-sharing programs, and community events to learn and help preserve desert plant knowledge.



[Friends of Cave Creek Canyon](#)

The Friends of Cave Creek Canyon (FOCCC) is a nonprofit organization based in Portal, Arizona, dedicated to preserving and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains. Established in 2011, FOCCC collaborates closely with the Coronado National Forest to support conservation efforts and provide educational opportunities for residents, visitors, and students. Their initiatives include maintaining hiking trails, managing campgrounds, staffing the Visitor Information Center, and organizing community science events like the annual BioBlitz, which invites participants to document local biodiversity through platforms such as iNaturalist. For youth and young professionals interested in environmental education and applied conservation, FOCCC offers various volunteer and internship opportunities. Engaging with FOCCC allows individuals to gain hands-on experience in habitat restoration, species monitoring, and community outreach, all while fostering a deeper connection to one of the most biodiverse regions in the United States.



[Friends of Saguaro National Park](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and preserving the natural, cultural, and historical resources of Saguaro National Park in Tucson, Arizona. The organization works alongside the National Park Service to offer a variety of programs focused on environmental education, habitat restoration, and community engagement. Their efforts include organizing volunteer opportunities



for park maintenance, invasive species removal, wildlife monitoring, and assisting with educational programs for visitors of all ages. Youth and young professionals can get involved through internships, volunteer workdays, and educational outreach events, gaining hands-on experience in conservation and environmental stewardship. The Friends group also supports public education efforts such as guided hikes, lectures, and workshops that help foster a deeper understanding of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. By contributing to the conservation of one of the most iconic national parks in the U.S., volunteers have the chance to make a tangible impact while learning valuable skills in park management and ecological restoration.

[Ironwood Tree Experience](#)

A nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, focused on promoting environmental stewardship through education, community engagement, and habitat restoration. The organization primarily works to conserve and restore the native Sonoran Desert ecosystem by planting and caring for native trees, particularly the ironwood tree, which is a keystone species in the region. Ironwood Tree Experience offers a variety of programs, including community tree planting, environmental education workshops, and ecological restoration projects.



[Las Milpitas Community Farm](#)

A nonprofit organization in Tucson, Arizona, dedicated to providing a sustainable and educational space for local residents to grow food and engage in community-based agriculture. The farm focuses on urban farming, food justice, and environmental education, offering fresh, affordable produce to underserved communities while promoting sustainable growing practices. Las Milpitas operates as a working farm where volunteers and participants can get involved in planting, harvesting, and caring for crops, as well as learning about composting, soil health, and water conservation. These experiences provide hands-on skills in urban farming, food security, and community outreach, while fostering a deeper understanding of the connections between food production and environmental conservation.



[People Helping People \(PHP\) in the Border Zone](#)

People Helping People in the Border Zone is a grassroots humanitarian group based in Arivaca, Arizona, working to prevent death and suffering along the U.S.-Mexico border. Founded in 2012, they provide water, food, medical aid, and support to migrants traveling through the desert. Volunteers can get involved by helping maintain water stations, joining desert aid walks, or supporting supply and education efforts.



[Native Seeds/SEARCH](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving and promoting the use of native plants, particularly those that are adapted to the desert regions of the southwestern United States. The organization focuses on preserving the biodiversity of native seeds, maintaining seed banks, and restoring habitats through the use of locally adapted plant species. Native Seed/Search works with communities, farmers, and conservationists to enhance food security, restore native landscapes, and encourage sustainable agricultural practices.



[No More Deaths](#)

A humanitarian organization based in southern Arizona that works to end death and suffering in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Grounded in the principles of civil initiative and human rights, the group provides life-saving aid—like water, food, and medical care—to migrants in remote desert areas, where extreme conditions and border enforcement have made travel deadly. Volunteers can participate in desert aid, community organizing, legal advocacy, and solidarity work.



[Saguaro National Park](#)

A 91,442-acre national park located in Tucson, Arizona, dedicated to preserving the iconic Saguaro cactus and the unique ecosystems of the Sonoran Desert. The park is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including desert tortoises, coyotes, and hundreds of species of birds, as well as spectacular desert landscapes and cultural sites. Visitors can explore the park's two districts—Rincon Mountain District and Tucson Mountain District—through a network of scenic drives, hiking trails, and guided tours that highlight the rich biodiversity and natural history of the area. The park also offers educational programs for all ages, including nature walks, public lectures, and wildlife tracking activities. Volunteers play an essential role in supporting the park through activities like trail maintenance, habitat restoration, invasive species management, and visitor education. For youth and young professionals, opportunities to gain hands-on experience in conservation, environmental science, and park management are available through internships and volunteer programs. By getting involved, individuals can deepen their connection to the desert while contributing to the protection of this iconic landscape.



[Sierra Club](#)

One of the oldest and most influential environmental organizations in the U.S., dedicated to promoting conservation, protecting public lands, and addressing climate change. With chapters across the country, the Sierra Club advocates for policies that support clean energy, environmental justice, and sustainable practices. Community members can engage by joining the club, participating in local events, volunteering for environmental campaigns, and taking part in outdoor activities like hikes and clean-ups. Through grassroots organizing and public advocacy,



the Sierra Club empowers individuals to make a difference in their communities and the environment.

Sky Island Alliance

Sky Island Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the unique ecosystems of the Sky Islands—mountain ranges surrounded by desert and grassland in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The organization focuses on protecting biodiversity, promoting habitat connectivity, and advocating for the conservation of critical species and ecosystems in this ecologically diverse region. Their work involves habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring, advocacy, and community-based conservation efforts. Sky Island Alliance offers career opportunities and volunteer programs in fields such as wildlife biology, ecological restoration, conservation policy, community outreach, and research science.



Sustainable Tucson

A community-driven nonprofit organization committed to fostering a healthy, resilient, and equitable future for Tucson and the surrounding region. Founded in 2007, Sustainable Tucson works to address climate change, promote renewable energy, conserve natural resources, and support local food systems through education, advocacy, and collaborative projects. The organization empowers residents to take action by offering workshops, community forums, sustainability planning, and hands-on programs that encourage environmental stewardship and social justice. Volunteers and members can get involved in initiatives like urban gardening, water conservation, clean energy campaigns, and local policy advocacy.



Tohono Chul Park

A 49-acre botanical garden and cultural center in Tucson that offers immersive experiences in the Sonoran Desert's natural and cultural heritage. The park features diverse exhibits, including the Ethnobotanical Garden, Riparian Habitat, and Desert Living Courtyard, showcasing native plants and sustainable landscaping practices. Tohono Chul provides various educational programs and volunteer opportunities for youth and young professionals. The Docent Program trains individuals to lead guided tours, sharing knowledge about desert ecology and cultural history. Volunteers can assist in areas such as retail, plant propagation, grounds maintenance, and special events. Additionally, the park collaborates with organizations like SARSEF to offer summer camps focusing on desert science, art, and sustainability for grades 4–8. These programs provide hands-on learning experiences and foster a deeper connection to the desert environment.



[Tucson Bird Alliance](#)

A nonprofit organization committed to the conservation of birds and their habitats in southern Arizona. Focused on bird conservation, habitat restoration, and environmental education, the organization works to protect local wildlife and ecosystems through a combination of science-based programs, advocacy, and community engagement. They offer opportunities for bird monitoring, habitat restoration, community science projects, and outreach programs to engage the public in bird conservation efforts. The organization also leads educational initiatives that teach people of all ages about the importance of birds, their migratory patterns, and the need to preserve native habitats.



[Tucson Clean & Beautiful](#)

A local nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the beauty and livability of Tucson through environmental stewardship and community engagement. Their work focuses on litter prevention, community beautification, urban forestry, and sustainability initiatives. Tucson Clean & Beautiful organizes a variety of programs such as neighborhood cleanups, tree planting projects, and environmental education workshops. They offer numerous ways for youth and young professionals to get involved, including volunteer opportunities, internships, and community service events. By participating, individuals can help maintain and improve local parks, reduce waste, and promote sustainable practices within the city. The organization also provides leadership opportunities for youth to take on roles in organizing cleanups and other outreach efforts, helping them develop valuable skills while making a positive impact on their community. Tucson Clean & Beautiful serves as a hands-on resource for those passionate about environmental action and urban sustainability.



[Watershed Management Group](#)

A nonprofit organization based in Tucson, dedicated to restoring and managing water resources to ensure healthy watersheds and sustainable water practices. WMG focuses on rainwater harvesting, stormwater management, native plant restoration, and community water education. The organization works with local communities, businesses, and government agencies to implement green infrastructure projects that improve water efficiency and promote ecosystem health. For youth and young professionals, WMG offers a variety of volunteer and internship opportunities, where individuals can engage in hands-on activities such as stormwater harvesting system installations, community outreach, and watershed restoration efforts. Additionally, WMG organizes educational workshops and events that provide practical skills in sustainable water practices, making it an ideal resource for those interested in water conservation, environmental stewardship, and community-based solutions to water challenges.



Cochise County

Amerind Foundation

A nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing Native American heritage and culture through education, research, and art. Based in southern Arizona, the foundation focuses on the preservation of Native American artifacts, cultural traditions, and archaeological sites. Amerind provides a museum and research center, offering exhibits, educational programs, and community events that highlight the history and contributions of Native peoples. Community members can engage by visiting the museum, attending cultural events, supporting the foundation's programs, or participating in educational workshops.



Arizona Border Alliance (ABA)

Operated in Douglas, Arizona, is a binational nonprofit serving Cochise, Pima, Santa Cruz, and Yuma counties (and adjacent Sonoran communities). With a focus on cross-border health, prevention, education, and community empowerment, ABA offers training workshops on drug prevention, trauma-informed care, Narcan distribution, and resume/interview skills. They also provide in-home services such as native garden and rainwater-harvesting site designs, and serve as a fiscal agent to help local organizations scale their impact. While ABA doesn't currently list formal internships or restoration roles, their team fosters collaborative programs that build capacity across civic, health, and environmental sectors in the border region.



Cascabel Conservation Association

The Cascabel Conservation Association (CCA) is a grassroots land trust and stewardship organization dedicated to protecting and nurturing the Middle San Pedro River watershed in eastern Cochise County. Rooted in local collaboration since 1997, CCA harmonizes conservation, education, and contemplative experiences on more than 1,500 acres of diverse habitats—from riparian corridors to grasslands—uniting efforts across agriculture, ecological science, and community engagement. The organization offers a range of public-involved activities including: a community garden where volunteers grow local food; a hermitage retreat program that invites participants to immerse in nature and reflection; trail stewardship and ecological monitoring to support wildlife corridors and biodiversity; and advocacy efforts such as protecting key conservation easements and opposing infrastructure projects that threaten habitat connectivity.



Chiricahua Land Conservancy

CHIRICAHUA LAND CONSERVANCY

The Chiricahua Land Conservancy (CLC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the unique biodiversity and cultural heritage of southeastern Arizona through land stewardship, conservation, and education. Focused on the Sky Island region, CLC manages and protects ecologically significant lands that serve as vital wildlife corridors and habitats. In addition to land conservation, the organization offers environmental education programs that engage community members in understanding local ecosystems, native species, and conservation practices. CLC also provides a range of volunteer opportunities, including habitat restoration, biological monitoring, invasive species removal, and educational outreach, allowing individuals to contribute directly to the protection and preservation of this critical landscape.

Cochise Conservation & Recharge Network (CCRN)



The Cochise Conservation & Recharge Network (CCRN) is a collaborative partnership—led by Cochise County, the cities of Sierra Vista and Bisbee, Fort Huachuca, the Bureau of Land Management, the Hereford NRCD, and The Nature Conservancy—dedicated to restoring water to the San Pedro River watershed through innovative land and groundwater recharge projects. Since its launch in 2015, CCRN has developed a network of eight strategic sites across roughly 6,300 acres to capture stormwater and treated effluent, resulting in over 6,000 acre-feet of groundwater benefits in 2022 alone. Their work includes the Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park (visitor docent-led tours of recharge operations), Palominas flood-control and recharge initiatives, and upcoming projects like Coyote Wash stormwater management, all while monitoring and maintaining habitat health. CCRN also engages in community outreach—through public tours, Science Café events, and annual reports—and partners with universities for case studies and education, offering volunteers roles in site upkeep, monitoring, and public education events that help foster stewardship of local water and riparian ecosystems.

Cochise County Historical & Archaeological Society



Based in Douglas since 1976, is a volunteer-led nonprofit dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich cultural and archaeological heritage of southeastern Arizona. They operate a museum in the historic Cochise County Courthouse, curate artifacts and records that span from Native American tribes to early Anglo settlers, and maintain sites including Fort Bowie and Chiricahua National Monument. The Society offers public education through archaeological field trips, cultural presentations, museum exhibits, and an annual history conference, engaging the community with the region's past. Volunteers play key roles in research, tours, artifact cataloging, event support, and museum operations—making it an ideal opportunity for those interested in historical preservation, archaeology, and community education.

[Douglaprieta Trabajan](#)

A binational women-led nonprofit based in both Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, dedicated to fostering economic and environmental resilience through community-led initiatives. Founded in 2004, the organization empowers local women by offering classes in organic gardening, sewing, adobe brick-making, and animal husbandry—centered around their thriving community garden and small livestock areas—providing both practical skills and sustainable food production. Volunteers and participants help cultivate native fruits and vegetables, maintain garden plots, care for chickens and rabbits, and assist with educational workshops that promote self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship, and environmental stewardship. Through its inclusive, hands-on approach, Douglaprieta's efforts enrich the local ecosystem, strengthen cross-border connections, and enable families—especially women—to build resilient, self-reliant communities.



[Friends of Huachuca Mountains](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of the Huachuca Mountains in southeastern Arizona. Operating in partnership with the Sierra Vista Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest, FOHM enhances public understanding and appreciation of the region through educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and stewardship activities.



[Girls on Outdoor Adventure for Leadership and Science \(GALS\) by University of Arizona](#)

A free, week-long fall break program offered by the University of Arizona for high school girls—especially those from under-resourced schools in the Tucson area—who are curious about science, the outdoors, and leadership. Open to current 9th–12th grade students, the program takes participants on a fully-supported camping trip (often to the Chiricahua Mountains), where they conduct hands-on ecological research, learn from female scientists and mentors, and develop skills in teamwork, leadership, and public speaking. Each student is also matched with a University of Arizona mentor for continued support throughout the school year, including college and career guidance. GALS removes barriers to participation by providing all necessary camping gear, meals, transportation, and even hiking boots. The program aims to build confidence and expand access to STEM and outdoor learning for girls historically underrepresented in these fields.



[Malpai Borderlands Group](#)

A nonprofit organization focused on the conservation of the Malpai Borderlands, a 2.5 million-acre region in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. The organization works to maintain the health of this ecologically significant area through land stewardship,



habitat restoration, and wildlife conservation. Malpai Borderlands Group emphasizes collaborative conservation efforts with ranchers, landowners, and public agencies to promote sustainable land management practices and protect important species and ecosystems, including the endangered Mexican gray wolf. The organization's programs include fire management, riparian restoration, and monitoring of wildlife populations.

Naco Wellness Initiative

A powerful community-led nonprofit serving both Naco, Arizona, and Naco, Sonora, that aims to foster health, nutrition, and well-being through holistic, cross-border collaboration. Through two “Casa Saludable” clinics and a 1.5-acre San Jose community garden, NWI offers medical screenings, exercise and nutrition workshops, and chronic disease prevention (especially for diabetes and hypertension), alongside hands-on gardening education and fresh produce distribution to local families. Founded in 2004 and rooted in grassroots volunteerism—supported by Promotoras and medical professionals—the initiative also hosts community health fairs, school garden programs, and wellness classes where volunteers can contribute by assisting in clinics, teaching workshops, tending gardens, organizing events, or donating supplies, all aimed at empowering their community to thrive across cultural and national divides.



Project Wildlife Bisbee

Grassroots conservation initiative by Bisbee residents, who in 2022 formed a volunteer team backed by the National Wildlife Federation to transform city spaces into thriving wildlife habitats. They've planted hundreds of native plants, installed water features, and created shelter areas in places like Upper Vista Park, aiming to certify the city as an official Community Wildlife Habitat. Public engagement is key: volunteers work together to garden, maintain sites, and educate neighbors, while local school groups and community members are invited to outdoor “classrooms” to learn about native plants, pollinators, and sustainable gardening. The project offers hands-on volunteer opportunities in planting, garden upkeep, outreach events, and habitat design.



Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory

The Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory (SABO), founded in 1996 and based in Bisbee and the Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary in Cochise County, is a nonprofit dedicated to conserving the region's rich birdlife and habitats through scientific research, monitoring, and public education. SABO runs hummingbird- and migration-monitoring programs—including public bird banding sessions along the San Pedro River corridor—plus guided bird walks, workshops, and educational tours at sites like Ash Canyon, the Environmental Operations Park in Sierra Vista, and regional hotspots across the Sky Island mountain ranges. Volunteers support Sanctuary upkeep, banding events, outreach festivals, and birding walk leadership, gaining hands-on experience in habitat stewardship, species monitoring, and



ecotourism support—all while helping foster environmental awareness and appreciation in southeastern Arizona.

[The Southeast Arizona Butterfly Association \(SEABA\)](#)



Volunteer-driven nonprofit founded in 1999 as the local chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. It brings together enthusiasts of all experience levels—from curious newcomers to expert lepidopterists—around a shared passion for butterflies and their habitats. SEABA organizes regular field trips to butterfly-rich areas in Cochise County such as Sycamore Canyon, Patagonia Butterfly Garden, and Madera Canyon, along with pop-up outings, monthly educational meetings, and participation in the annual NABA Butterfly Counts to monitor species diversity. The group also engages in outreach efforts at community events and school programs, and maintains a robust online resource section for butterfly checklists, native plant recommendations, and gardening guides to support public butterfly habitats. Through its open-invitation meetings, guided nature hikes, citizen-science counts, and gardening guidance, SEABA offers visitors and volunteers abundant opportunities to deepen their appreciation for local pollinators and contribute to conservation across Cochise County.

[Three Canyons Conservation & Restoration Initiative](#)

Formerly the Three Canyons development—is now a binational land-conservation effort led by Wildlife Corridors LLC and Borderlands Restoration Network. Located just north of Patagonia in Cochise County, this 1,250-acre property is being protected as a vital wildlife corridor linking the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Patagonia highlands. While approximately 916 acres are set aside exclusively for habitat, a buffer zone supports sustainable agriculture, native plant propagation, and public recreation, including guided trail stewardship. Through this work, volunteers and community members assist with ecological monitoring, erosion control, trail planning, fence repair, public outreach, and community advisory sessions, gaining hands-on experience in landscape restoration and wildlife-corridor protection. This blend of habitat restoration, community engagement, and careful land use planning builds a replicable model for conservation in southeastern Arizona.

[University of Arizona Cooperative Extension](#) **- Cochise County**



The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in Cochise County offers a diverse range of environmental education and volunteer opportunities aimed at fostering sustainable practices and community engagement. Through the Cochise County Master Gardener Program, individuals receive university-level training in horticulture and commit to volunteer service, sharing science-based gardening knowledge with the community. The Cochise Water Wise program educates residents on water conservation techniques, while the Cochise Noxious Weeds Program provides

workshops on identifying and managing invasive plant species. Additionally, the Cochise County 4-H program empowers youth through hands-on experiences in science, agriculture, and civic engagement, guided by adult mentors.

Santa Cruz County

OS3 Movement

The OS3 Movement (short for Zero Sickness, Suffering, and Sedentary Lifestyle) is a dynamic nonprofit organization based in Nogales, Arizona, dedicated to promoting youth empowerment, active transportation, and community wellness. Through programs that encourage cycling and physical activity, OS3 creates safe and inclusive spaces for people to grow, lead, and thrive. Its initiatives include youth cycling teams, bike repair training, the Adopt-a-Bike program, and regular family-friendly rides like the Friday Night Ride. With a strong focus on health, environmental sustainability, and community engagement, OS3 empowers local youth to become active participants in shaping a happier, stronger, and more connected Nogales.



Canelo Project

The Canelo Project is a non-profit natural building and land-stewardship center founded in 1989 by Bill and Athena Steen, situated on a 40-acre homestead south of Sonoita, AZ, amid oak woodlands and riparian zones. They specialize in hands-on workshops, tours, and intern programs that teach sustainable techniques—such as straw-bale and adobe construction, clay and lime plaster finishes, sculptural carving, earthen floors, and clay ovens—using locally sourced, natural materials. The Project also hosts public site tours several times a year to showcase its experimental buildings. The Canelo Project is an accessible, place-based resource for those seeking practical training, inspiration, and community in the fields of natural building, ecological restoration, and sustainable land management.



University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

- Santa Cruz County

Provides research-based educational programs and resources that support sustainable agriculture, youth development, nutrition, and natural resource stewardship in the borderlands region. Through initiatives like 4-H youth programs, school and community garden support, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), the Extension promotes environmental education, healthy living, and community resilience. While the county does not currently host a Master Gardener program, residents can access gardening and ecological resources or participate in regional trainings through nearby counties. Volunteer opportunities include mentoring



youth, supporting garden projects, and assisting with community events that advance environmental awareness and education.

[The Kino Border Initiative \(KBI\)](#)

A binational humanitarian and advocacy organization headquartered in Nogales, Arizona, located in Santa Cruz County. Established in 2008–2009 through a collaboration of six Catholic entities—including the Jesuit provinces in the U.S. and Mexico, Jesuit Refugee Service, and regional dioceses—KBI operates on both sides of the border: in Nogales, AZ, and Nogales, Sonora, MX. The organization runs a Migrant Outreach Center and shelter facilities (such as Nazareth House) on the Sonora side, offering meals, medical care, psychosocial support, legal orientation, and safe lodging to deported or vulnerable migrants. Sustained by volunteers, donations, and Jesuit-linked partners, KBI also educates local communities and advocates for humane migration policies rooted in human dignity and cross-border solidarity.



Kino Border Initiative

[Friends of Sonoita Creek](#)

An all-volunteer nonprofit based in Patagonia, Arizona, founded in 2004 to protect and restore the Sonoita Creek watershed—an ecologically rich area spanning seven biomes across roughly 280 square miles. FOSC engages in watershed advocacy, water-quality monitoring (including monthly groundwater and quarterly surface sampling), and hands-on restoration projects like planting native cottonwoods, maintaining trails, and repairing fencing to prevent livestock damage. They also offer public education through workshops, creekside hikes, school programs, and community events. Individuals can get involved by volunteering in monitoring or restoration efforts, attending FOSC-led educational hikes and presentations, contributing financially, or joining local working groups focused on water management and stewardship.



[Patagonia Area Resource Alliance](#)

A grassroots nonprofit based in Patagonia, Arizona, founded in 2011 to safeguard the Patagonia Mountains, Harshaw/Sonoita Creek watershed, and the region's rich biodiversity from the threats of modern industrial mining. As a vigilant community watchdog, PARA monitors proposed mining projects, holds companies and government agencies accountable, and conducts public outreach and legal advocacy to ensure adherence to environmental protection standards. They also collaborate with local partners to promote a sustainable, nature-based economy rooted in ecotourism, ranching, farming, and arts. Individuals can engage by volunteering, submitting public comments on mining permits, attending educational events, supporting legal efforts, or donating to help preserve the area's water, wildlife, and cultural heritage.



SEEDS Community Agriculture

Based in Nogales, Arizona, is a grassroots nonprofit that brings together Indigenous and migrant families to promote food sovereignty, environmental justice, and cultural resilience. Rooted in traditional ecological knowledge, SEEDS operates a micro-farm where community members engage in sustainable agriculture, seed saving, and land restoration. They offer hands-on educational programs, intergenerational workshops, and volunteer opportunities focused on soil health, desert farming, and ecosystem healing. Individuals can get involved by volunteering on the farm, attending events, or supporting their work through partnerships and donations.



SUSTAINABILITY & JUSTICE INITIATIVES

Arizona Geological Society

A professional organization that promotes the study and understanding of geology in Arizona and the southwestern U.S. It supports geological science, professional development, and community engagement through events, field trips, and educational resources. Community members can join AGS to access networking opportunities, attend talks and workshops, and stay informed through publications and geological research. AGS is a great resource for students, professionals, and geology enthusiasts in Arizona.



Arizona Geological Survey

A state agency dedicated to advancing the understanding of Arizona's geology and natural resources through research, mapping, and education. Their mission is to provide geologic information and expertise that supports natural resource management, environmental protection, and land-use planning across the state. AZGS conducts studies on the state's geological hazards (like earthquakes and landslides), mineral resources, groundwater, and landforms to inform decision-making and public safety. Community members can engage with AZGS by accessing their publicly available geological maps, publications, and data, or by attending educational workshops and events. They also offer opportunities for students and professionals to participate in field research, fostering an understanding of Arizona's diverse and complex geologic landscape.



Arizona Master Naturalist

Statewide initiative that trains volunteers to become environmental stewards and ambassadors for Arizona's diverse ecosystems. The program focuses on providing participants with in-depth knowledge about the state's plants, animals, and habitats, as well as ecological principles, conservation practices, and environmental issues. Master Naturalists participate in educational workshops, field experiences, and hands-on projects aimed at promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices. After completing the training, volunteers contribute by leading interpretive programs, conducting wildlife monitoring, assisting with habitat restoration, and supporting community outreach efforts. The program offers excellent opportunities for young professionals and youth to gain experience in environmental education, conservation science, and community engagement. By becoming a certified Master Naturalist, individuals can develop valuable



skills in natural resource management, public speaking, and field research, while playing an active role in protecting and preserving Arizona's natural heritage.

Arizona Native Plant Society

A nonprofit organization focused on the conservation, study, and appreciation of Arizona's native plant species. Their mission is to promote the understanding and preservation of Arizona's diverse plant life through education, field trips, and advocacy. AZNPS works to protect native plants and their habitats while fostering a community of plant enthusiasts, researchers, and conservationists. Community members can engage by joining the society, attending educational events and field trips, volunteering for conservation projects, or contributing to native plant research. AZNPS provides valuable resources for anyone interested in the flora of Arizona and the importance of preserving its natural landscapes.



Arizona Sustainability Alliance

A nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing sustainability across Arizona through community-driven, project-based initiatives. Focused on areas like clean energy, urban forestry, sustainable food systems, and conservation, AZSA works to create equitable and innovative solutions for environmental challenges. They engage the public through volunteer opportunities, educational workshops, and programs like the Tree Stewards certification, which empowers individuals to lead local green projects. By promoting civic involvement and environmental justice, AZSA helps communities build a more sustainable and resilient future.



Borderlandia

A binational organization focused on celebrating and preserving the cultural and environmental heritage of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Through community engagement, art, education, and advocacy, Borderlandia highlights the unique history, biodiversity, and traditions of the border region. They work to promote cross-cultural understanding and address issues related to borderlands conservation, migration, and social justice. Community members can get involved by attending events, supporting their advocacy campaigns, participating in educational programs, or engaging in local environmental and cultural projects. Borderlandia offers a platform for those passionate about the rich, diverse heritage of the borderlands region.



Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

A nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the Sonoran Desert ecosystem in southern Arizona. The coalition works to preserve the region's biodiversity, public lands, and natural



resources through advocacy, policy change, and grassroots efforts. CSDP collaborates with local communities, government agencies, and other conservation groups to promote sustainable land use and safeguard critical habitats. Community members can get involved by supporting the coalition's campaigns, attending events, volunteering, and participating in advocacy efforts to protect the Sonoran Desert.

DarkSky International

A nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the night skies by advocating for responsible outdoor lighting and reducing light pollution. Their mission is to preserve and restore natural nightscapes through education, policy advocacy, and community involvement. Community members can engage by joining IDA, supporting dark sky initiatives, participating in local events, and promoting dark sky-friendly practices in their neighborhoods. IDA also designates dark sky places, providing opportunities for stargazing and raising awareness about the importance of natural nighttime environments.



Justice Outside

A nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing racial equity and justice in the outdoor and environmental sectors. They exist to create pathways for people of color, particularly youth, to connect with nature, develop leadership skills, and engage in environmental advocacy. By offering grants, training, and community-building programs, Justice Outside works to dismantle systemic barriers and ensure marginalized communities have access to outdoor spaces and environmental opportunities. Young people can get involved through youth leadership programs, applying for grants, or participating in their outdoor education initiatives, all of which aim to empower them to become advocates for both environmental and racial justice.



Latino Outdoors

A nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting Latinx communities with the outdoors and promoting diversity in outdoor spaces. Their mission is to inspire, connect, and empower Latinx individuals to engage in outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, and conservation. Latino Outdoors organizes events such as hikes, camping trips, and educational workshops that celebrate Latinx culture and foster a love for nature. The organization also advocates for equitable access to outdoor spaces and works to increase representation of Latinx voices in environmental leadership. Community members can engage by participating in outdoor events, becoming volunteers, or supporting initiatives that promote inclusive, nature-based experiences for all.



Local First Arizona



A nonprofit organization committed to building a sustainable and inclusive economy by supporting locally owned businesses and fostering community development across the state. Through initiatives like the Green Business Program, SCALE UP, and Green Business Boot Camp, Local First Arizona provides resources and training to help businesses reduce their environmental impact, save costs, and enhance resilience against climate-related challenges. These programs focus on areas such as energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable transportation. The organization also supports community-driven projects, including urban farming, food hubs, and educational workshops, to promote local food systems and environmental stewardship. Individuals and businesses can engage by participating in certification programs, attending workshops, volunteering for community projects, or supporting local green businesses. By fostering a culture of sustainability and local entrepreneurship, Local First Arizona aims to create a thriving, equitable, and environmentally resilient future for all Arizonans.

International Sonoran Desert Alliance



A nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and sustainable development of the Sonoran Desert region in southern Arizona and northern Mexico. ISDA works to protect the desert's unique ecosystems, cultural heritage, and local communities through conservation initiatives, land stewardship, and environmental education. The organization collaborates with local residents, agencies, and conservation groups to promote sustainable land-use practices and improve quality of life in the desert's rural communities. Community members can engage by participating in volunteer programs, attending workshops and events, and supporting efforts to preserve the region's natural and cultural resources. ISDA is a key player in advancing environmental and community-driven solutions for the Sonoran Desert.

Outdoor Afro



A nonprofit organization dedicated to reconnecting Black people with nature and promoting outdoor recreation, environmental stewardship, and conservation. Through local chapters across the U.S., Outdoor Afro creates opportunities for Black communities to engage with the outdoors by organizing activities like hiking, camping, fishing, and wildlife observation. The organization also focuses on leadership development and advocacy for inclusive, nature-based experiences. Community members can get involved by attending events, volunteering, or becoming a part of the broader Outdoor Afro network to help build a more inclusive outdoor movement for people of all backgrounds.

[Slow Food Network](#)

A global grassroots movement dedicated to promoting local food cultures, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity. Founded to counteract the rise of fast food and industrialized food systems, Slow Food encourages people to reconnect with the origins of their food through education, community events, and advocacy. The organization supports small-scale farmers, protects traditional recipes, and promotes environmentally friendly practices that preserve local ecosystems and food heritage. Members and volunteers can engage through local chapters, food festivals, educational workshops, and campaigns that emphasize good, clean, and fair food for all.



[Sonora Environmental Research Institute](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to conducting scientific research and providing solutions to environmental issues in the Sonoran Desert and surrounding regions. Their mission is to protect and preserve the unique biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural resources of the Sonora region through applied research, education, and community engagement. SERI collaborates with local communities, government agencies, and environmental groups to foster sustainable practices and ensure the long-term health of the environment. Community members can engage with SERI by participating in citizen science programs, volunteering for conservation efforts, attending public educational workshops, or supporting their research initiatives that focus on everything from habitat restoration to wildlife protection. Through these efforts, SERI empowers local residents to become active stewards of their environment.



PLACES TO VISIT & LEARN

Arizona State Museum

Located at the University of Arizona, is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the cultural and environmental history of the American Southwest. It features exhibits on Native American cultures, archaeology, and sustainable practices, with a focus on Indigenous heritage and resource management. ASM offers educational programs, workshops, and events that address environmental justice and cultural preservation. It's a key resource for those interested in Arizona's rich history and ongoing conservation efforts.



**ARIZONA
STATE MUSEUM**

Carr House

Initiative by the Friends of Huachuca Mountains. Located in Carr Canyon, which serves as a hub for visitors seeking information about the area's natural history, hiking trails, and wildlife. The center is open on weekends and federal holidays from April through November. FOHM hosts a series of free Sunday afternoon programs from April to November, covering topics such as geology, wildlife, cultural history, and astronomy. These presentations are held at the Carr House and are open to the public. Additionally, FOHM offers volunteer opportunities for individuals interested in supporting the maintenance of the Carr House, assisting with educational programs, and participating in trail maintenance and habitat restoration projects. Volunteers play a vital role in preserving the ecological integrity and accessibility of the Huachuca Mountains for future generations.

Cuenca Los Ojos

A U.S.-Mexico binational conservation project protecting 121,000 acres of Sky Islands habitat in Sonora, Mexico. Since the 1990s, this nonprofit has restored desert wetlands, grasslands, and forest ecosystems by building over 60,000 rock dams and gabions, reintroducing native species like beavers, deer, and turkeys, and reviving seasonal water flows in historically dry creeks. Today, its lands provide a refuge for jaguars, ocelots, black bears, beavers, and countless other wildlife and plant species. Cuenca stewards these voluntary conservation areas through sustainable grazing, fire management, environmental education, and community engagement. To get involved, individuals can volunteer in habitat restoration, attend workshops and nature events, support through donations or partnerships, or participate in educational field days—all helping to rewild the borderlands and build a resilient, biodiverse future.



[Kartchner Caverns](#)

Located near Benson, Arizona, is home to one of the most spectacular and well-preserved limestone caves in North America. Discovered in 1974 and opened to the public in 1999, the park exists to protect and showcase this remarkable natural wonder, featuring stunning formations such as stalactites, stalagmites, and helictites that have developed over thousands of years. The caverns offer visitors an unforgettable experience through guided tours that reveal the intricate beauty and delicate ecosystem of the underground world. Beyond the caves, the park includes hiking trails, camping facilities, and a visitor center with educational exhibits about geology, conservation, and the region's natural history.



[Paton Center for Hummingbirds](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the research, conservation, and appreciation of hummingbirds, with a special focus on the species found in southern Arizona. Located in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, the center offers educational programs, research opportunities, and hands-on experiences that highlight the ecological importance of hummingbirds. It serves as a resource for birdwatchers, researchers, and the general public by providing information on hummingbird behavior, migration, and conservation efforts. Community members can engage by visiting the center, attending workshops, participating in citizen science projects, and supporting conservation initiatives aimed at protecting hummingbird habitats.



[Ramsey Canyon Preserve](#)

A nature reserve located in southeastern Arizona, known for its rich biodiversity and stunning natural beauty. Managed by The Nature Conservancy, the preserve is home to a variety of plant and animal species, including some that are rare and endangered. The canyon is particularly famous for its diversity of bird species, especially hummingbirds, which migrate through the area in large numbers. Visitors can enjoy scenic hiking trails, birdwatching, and educational programs that highlight the area's unique ecology and conservation efforts. The preserve also offers opportunities to learn about the region's diverse ecosystems, from riparian habitats to oak woodlands.



[Mission Garden](#)

A historic, cultural, and educational garden in Tucson, Arizona, dedicated to preserving and showcasing the agricultural heritage of the Sonoran Desert. Situated at the site of the original San Agustín Mission, the garden features a variety of heirloom plants and traditional crops that were cultivated by indigenous peoples, Spanish settlers, and early farmers in the region. Mission Garden focuses on sustainable farming, cultural preservation, and environmental education, offering visitors the opportunity to learn about the historical significance of these plants and agricultural practices. For young professionals and youth, Mission Garden provides



volunteer opportunities, internships, and educational programs where individuals can gain hands-on experience in horticulture, historic farming methods, and cultural preservation. These programs allow participants to learn about native plants, water conservation, and sustainable gardening techniques while connecting with Tucson's rich agricultural history.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

A protected area located in southern Arizona, near the U.S.-Mexico border, known for its stunning desert landscapes and rich biodiversity. The monument is named for the iconic Organ Pipe Cactus, a unique species that thrives in the Sonoran Desert. It is home to a wide variety of desert plants, wildlife, and archaeological sites, making it a haven for nature lovers, hikers, and those interested in cultural history. Visitors can explore scenic drives, hiking trails, and camping areas while learning about the area's ecological significance and cultural heritage. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument also plays a vital role in conservation, protecting desert ecosystems and providing a sanctuary for endangered species. It offers opportunities for environmental education and outdoor recreation, from birdwatching to stargazing.



Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve

A 3,000-acre nature preserve located in southeastern Arizona, managed by The Nature Conservancy. Situated at the convergence of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, the preserve is a vital ecological area known for its diverse habitats, including riparian wetlands, mesquite grasslands, and oak woodlands. It is home to a rich variety of wildlife, including rare species like the *Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo* and the *Sonoran Pronghorn*, as well as numerous bird species, reptiles, and plant life. The preserve offers visitors opportunities for birdwatching, hiking, and wildlife viewing along its scenic trails, which provide access to Sonoita Creek and the surrounding desert landscape.



San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge

Located in Cochise County along the U.S.-Mexico border, protects rare desert wetlands and provides critical habitat for endangered species like Yaqui fish and the San Bernardino springsnail. Managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the 2,300-acre refuge supports rich biodiversity with hundreds of bird, mammal, and reptile species. Restoration efforts include wetland pond creation, native planting, erosion control, and prescribed burns. Visitors can enjoy hiking, birdwatching, and nature photography on designated trails during daylight hours.



[San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area \(SPRNCA\)](#)

In 1988, Congress designated the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) as the nation's first Riparian National Conservation Area along 43 miles of the river to protect these natural and cultural resources. A unique and breathtaking destination in southeastern Arizona, featuring over 315,000 acres of pristine desert landscapes and the last free-flowing river in the American Southwest—the San Pedro River. This area is renowned for its incredible biodiversity, including hundreds of bird species, mammals, and native plants. Visitors can explore scenic hiking trails, enjoy exceptional birdwatching, and experience rich cultural and archaeological sites that tell the story of the region's Indigenous and settler history.



[San Xavier Co-op Farm](#)

The San Xavier Co-op Farm is a community-led agricultural project located on the Tohono O'odham Nation near Tucson, Arizona. The farm's mission is to promote sustainable farming practices, food sovereignty, and cultural revitalization by growing traditional Indigenous crops and supporting local food systems. The cooperative provides education, hands-on farming opportunities, and workshops to empower community members and reconnect them with ancestral agricultural knowledge. Volunteers and visitors can get involved by participating in planting, harvesting, farm maintenance, and educational events that celebrate Indigenous heritage and promote environmental stewardship.



[Tumacácori National Historical Park](#)

Located in southern Arizona near Nogales, preserves the ruins of three Spanish colonial missions dating back to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The park exists to protect and interpret these significant cultural and historical sites, which tell the story of early Spanish settlers, Indigenous peoples, and their complex interactions in the region. Visitors to Tumacácori can explore well-preserved mission structures, including a beautiful church with original adobe walls, chapels, and living quarters, while learning about the area's rich heritage through ranger-led tours, exhibits, and educational programs. The park offers a peaceful setting where people can connect with Arizona's colonial history and appreciate the blending of cultures that shaped the Southwest.



EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Pima Community College



PimaCommunityCollege

Offers several degrees and certificates that can be a step in your path towards a sustainability-related career, including in Arts, Humanities & Communication, Social, Behavioral & Human Services, and STEM.

Check out these courses under [CAS: Climate Action & Sustainability](#)

- » Sustainable Futures
- » Environmental Explorations
- » Food, People, and the Planet
- » Sustainability Cities & Societies
- » Systems, Logic & Sustainability
- » CAS in the Community

Cochise Community College



Offers several STEM programs that can be a step in your path towards a sustainability-related career, including in Animal Science, Crop Science, Fire Science Technology, and Horticulture Science.

- » Animal Science: [Associate of Applied Science Degree](#) or [Certificate](#)
- » Crop Science: [Associate of Applied Science Degree](#) or [Certificate](#)
- » Horticulture Science: [Certificate](#)

Prescott College



Prescott College

Offers a range of degree pathways focused on environmental science, conservation, and sustainability, with an emphasis on experiential learning and interdisciplinary studies. The college provides Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees in fields such as Environmental Studies, Ecology, Wildlife Conservation, Sustainable Community Development, and Outdoor Education. Prescott College is known for its commitment to social and environmental justice, offering programs that integrate environmental science with hands-on fieldwork, research, and community engagement. Students can specialize in areas like ecological restoration, climate change adaptation, and

sustainable land use. With small class sizes and a strong focus on personalized learning, Prescott College prepares students to become leaders in environmental conservation, sustainability, and ecological advocacy.

Degree Programs

- » BA Adventure Education
- » BA Critical Social Justice & Solidarity
- » BA Environmental Humanities
- » BA Field Ecology & Conservation
- » MA Organizing & Community Justice
- » MA Outdoor Leadership
- » MA Regenerative Design
- » MA Transformative Food Systems
- » MS Environmental Studies & Sustainability

Certificates

- » [Environmental Education Certificate](#)
- » [Nature-based Counseling](#)
- » [Sustainable Food Systems](#)

Northern Arizona University



Northern Arizona University (NAU) offers a variety of degree pathways in environmental science, conservation, and sustainability through its College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences. NAU provides Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees in fields such as Environmental Science, Wildlife Biology, Ecology, Sustainability, Forest Management, and Geography and Environmental Studies. The university emphasizes hands-on learning and field research, with opportunities to specialize in areas like ecosystem management, water resources, climate science, and conservation biology. NAU's programs are designed to prepare students for careers in natural resource management, environmental policy, and ecological restoration, with access to a range of research projects and partnerships with environmental organizations. With its strong focus on environmental stewardship and sustainability, NAU equips students to tackle pressing global environmental challenges.

College of Environment, Forestry & Natural Sciences

- » BA, BS Environmental & Sustainability Sciences
- » BS Applied Wildland Fire Science
- » BS Astronomy
- » BS, MS Biology
- » BS Biological & Natural Resource Sciences
- » BS, MS Chemistry
- » BS Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

- » BS Environmental Sciences
- » BS, MS Forestry
- » BS Microbiology
- » MA Sustainable Communities
- » MS Forest & Natural Resource Management
- » MS Environmental Sciences & Policy
- » MS Climate Science & Solutions

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

- » BA, MA Anthropology
- » BS Applied Indigenous Studies
- » BS, MS Geography
- » BS, MS Geology
- » BS Geography, Environment & Society
- » BS Parks & Recreation Management

College of Education

- » BS Applied Human Behavior
- » MsE Career & Technical Education

College of Engineering

- » BS, MS Civil Engineering
- » BS Environmental Engineering

Certificates

- » [Emergency Management Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Fire Ecology & Management Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Forest Resilience & Adaptation Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Human Dimensions of Forestry Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Non-Profit & Social Entrepreneurship Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Outdoor Education & Leadership Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Sports & Adventure Media Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Wildlife Ecology & Management Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Community Planning Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Geographic Information Systems Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Greenhouse Gas Accounting Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Indigenous & Tribal Nation-building Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Natural Resource Management Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Natural Resources Law Enforcement Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Recreational Therapy Graduate Certificate](#)

Grand Canyon University



Grand Canyon University (GCU) offers degree pathways in environmental science, sustainability, and conservation through its College of Science, Engineering, and Technology. GCU provides Bachelor's and Master's degrees in fields such as Environmental Science, Environmental and Resource Management, and Sustainable Development. The university focuses on equipping students with the skills needed to address environmental challenges, offering courses in ecology, climate change, renewable energy, and natural resource management. GCU emphasizes both scientific knowledge and practical experience, with opportunities for internships, research projects, and community-based sustainability initiatives. Graduates are prepared for careers in conservation, environmental policy, and sustainability, with a focus on creating innovative solutions for environmental challenges in Arizona and beyond.

College of Natural Sciences

- » BS, MS Biological Sciences
- » BA, BS Biology
- » BS, MS Chemistry
- » BS Environmental Sciences
- » BS Molecular & Cellular Biology
- » MS Sustainability

College of Engineering & Technology

- » BS Applied Technology

University of Arizona



The University of Arizona offers a variety of degree pathways related to environmental science and conservation across multiple disciplines. These include Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees in fields such as Environmental Science, Wildlife Conservation, Sustainability, Ecology, Natural Resource Management, and Environmental Policy. The university's School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE) provides a comprehensive education that integrates scientific research, conservation practices, and environmental management. Students can pursue specializations in areas like restoration ecology, climate change, water resources, and biodiversity conservation. The university also offers interdisciplinary programs that combine environmental science with engineering, public health, and policy, preparing graduates for diverse careers in conservation, sustainability, and environmental protection.

College of Science

- » BS Biology
- » BS Biochemistry

- » BS Chemistry
- » BA Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- » BS Geosciences
- » BS Geosciences & Society
- » BS Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences
- » BS Molecular & Cellular Biology
- » BS Planetary Geoscience

College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences

- » BS Sustainable Plant Systems
- » BS, MS Environmental Science
- » BS Geographic Information Systems Technology
- » MS Environmental Science
- » MS Water, Society, and Policy
- » BS, MS & PhD Natural Resources
 - Dual Degree Options: Business Administration, Public Administration, Public Policy, Urban Planning

CALES Research

- » Climate Adaptation & Sustainability
- » Conservation Biology
- » Ecohydrology
- » Fisheries Conservation & Management
- » Genetic & Molecular Biology
- » Invasive Species
- » Natural Resources Policy
- » Rangeland Ecology & Management
- » Remote Sensing
- » Restoration Ecology
- » Fire Ecology

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

- » BA Environmental Studies
- » MS Geographic Information Systems Technology
- » BA & MA Human Rights Practice

College of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture

- » BS Sustainable Built Environments
- » BS Urban and Regional Development
- » MS Architecture Design & Energy Conservation

College of Humanities

- » BIS Science, Technology, Health & Society
- » BA Applied Humanities: Rural Leadership & Renewal Emphasis

College of Engineering

- » ME Innovation, Sustainability, and Entrepreneurship
- » MS Materials Science and Engineering

Certificates

- » [Geographic Information Science Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Graduate Certificate in Aquaculture](#)
- » [Graduate Certificate in Water Policy](#)
- » [Graduate Certificate Soil Scientist](#)
- » [Heritage Conservation Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Human Rights Practice Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Indigenous Health Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [International Environmental Conservation Certificate](#)
- » [Online Sustainable Tourism Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Rangeland Management Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Sustainable Tourism Undergraduate Certificate](#)
- » [Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Undergraduate Certificate](#)

Arizona State University



Arizona State University (ASU) offers a wide range of degree pathways in environmental science and conservation through its School of Sustainability and other related departments. Students can pursue Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees in fields such as Environmental Science, Sustainability, Conservation Biology, Environmental Policy, Ecology, and Geographical Sciences. ASU's programs focus on interdisciplinary approaches, combining science, technology, policy, and sustainability practices to address environmental challenges. Students have opportunities to specialize in areas like climate change, water resources, renewable energy, and natural resource management. ASU is known for its hands-on learning experiences, research opportunities, and strong connections with sustainability-focused organizations, equipping students to make an impact in the field of environmental conservation.

College of Global Futures

- » BS Complexity Science
- » BA or BS Innovation in Society
- » BS Ocean Futures
- » BA, BS, MA, MS Sustainability
- » BS, MS Sustainable Food Systems
- » MA Arts in Sustainability
- » MS Biomimicry
- » MS Coastal & Marine Science & Management
- » MS Complex Science Systems
- » MS Global Technology & Development

- » MS Global Technology & Development (applied international development)
- » MS Futures & Design
- » MS Public Interest Technology
- » MS Sustainability Solutions
- » MS, EMSL Sustainability Leadership

Research

- » [ASU Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences](#)
- » [Global Institute of Sustainability & Innovation](#)
- » [The Water Institute](#)
- » [Arizona Water Innovation Initiative](#)
- » [Institute for the Future of Innovation in Society](#)
- » [Risk Innovation Lab](#)
- » [Civic Science for Environmental Future Collaboration](#)
- » [Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes \(CSPO\)](#)
- » [ASU Leonardo Institute](#)
- » [Threatcasting Lab](#)
- » [The Biomimicry Center](#)
- » [Center for Science Technology and Environmental Policy Studies](#)

[College of Integrative Sciences & Arts](#)

- » BAS Applied Science (Animal Biology)
- » BAS Applied Science (Applied Leadership)
- » BS Applied Biological Sciences (Natural Resource Ecology)
- » BS Applied Biological Sciences (Sustainable Horticulture)
- » BS Applied Biological Sciences (Secondary Education in Biology)
- » BS Biological Sciences (Conservation Biology & Ecology)
- » BS Biochemistry
- » BS Integrative Social Science
- » BS Science, Technology and Society
- » BSE Civil Engineering (Sustainable Engineering)

[College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)

[Natural Sciences](#)

- » BS Biophysics
- » BS Astronomical and Planetary Sciences
- » BSP Urban Planning
- » BS or BA Earth & Environmental Sciences
- » BS Earth & Space Exploration
 - Astrobiology and Biogeosciences
 - Geological and Planetary Sciences
 - Astrophysics
 - Exploration Systems Design

- » BS Biological Sciences
 - Biology & Society
 - Conservation Biology & Ecology
 - Genetics, Cell & Developmental Biology
- » BS, MS Microbiology
- » MS Astrophysics & Astronomy
- » MS Geological Sciences
- » MNS Natural Science
- » MS Biology
 - Biology & Society
- » MS Computational Life Sciences
- » MS Plant Biology & Conservation

Humanities

- » BA Culture, Technology & Environment

American Indian Studies

- » BS American Indian Studies
- » MS American Indian Studies
 - Indigenous Rights & Social Justice
 - Tribal Leadership & Governance
- » MA Indigenous Education

Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

- » BSE Environmental Engineering

Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts

- » BSLA Landscape Architecture
- » BS Environmental Design
- » BSD Architectural Studies

W.P. Carey School of Business

- » BA Business Sustainability

Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions

- » BS Nonprofit Leadership and Management
- » BS Tourism Development & Management (Sustainable Tourism)
- » BS Parks, Recreation and Sport Management
- » BS Public Service and Public Policy (Sustainability)
- » BA Community Advocacy and Social Policy
- » AS Emergency Management

New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

- » BS or BA Environmental Science (Environmental Justice)
- » BA Social Justice & Human Rights

Certificates

- » [Computational Life Sciences Graduate Certificate](#)
- » [Environmental Communication & Leadership](#)
- » [Scientific Teaching in Higher Education](#)
- » [American Indian Nation Governance](#)



SCHOLARSHIPS OR INTERNSHIPS

In Arizona, there are a variety of scholarships available for students pursuing careers in environmental conservation and sustainability. These scholarships are offered by universities, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and professional associations. They are designed to support individuals who are dedicated to environmental protection, natural resource management, sustainability, and conservation efforts across the state and beyond. Below is just a short list to get you started.

Advice for you:

Research Early - Scholarships often have early application deadlines, so start your research well in advance. Look at both the university and external opportunities to ensure you're aware of all potential funding sources.

Look for Specific Criteria - Many scholarships in environmental conservation and sustainability may have specific eligibility requirements, such as academic achievements, volunteer work, or internship experience. Tailor your applications to highlight your passion for the environment, relevant coursework, and hands-on experiences.

Seek Mentorship and Networking - Many environmental organizations offer internships, mentorship programs, and networking opportunities that can provide valuable financial support as well as career experience.

By pursuing scholarships through your chosen university or institution, as well as external sources, you can significantly reduce the financial burden of your studies while gaining valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth in the environmental field.

[Arizona 4-H Youth Foundation](#)

A nonprofit organization that supports 4-H youth development programs across the state of Arizona. 4-H empowers young people to develop leadership, citizenship, and life skills through hands-on learning in areas like agriculture, environmental science, health, and technology. The foundation raises funds to provide scholarships, grants, and educational resources to enhance the 4-H experience for youth in Arizona.



Arizona Community Foundation

A nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Arizona by supporting community-based programs, charitable causes, and educational initiatives. ACF manages a variety of scholarship funds aimed at helping students pursue higher education across multiple fields, including environmental studies. Among the scholarships offered, several focus on fields like environmental science, sustainability, natural resources, and wildlife conservation. These scholarships provide financial assistance to high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students in Arizona who are committed to pursuing careers in environmental stewardship, conservation, and related sectors. ACF also partners with local organizations to provide funding opportunities for youth engaged in community service, sustainability projects, and leadership in the environmental sector.



Arizona Wildlife Federation

Offers scholarships to students who are pursuing careers in wildlife conservation, environmental science, and related fields. These scholarships support undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate a strong commitment to wildlife conservation in Arizona.



Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC)

Leading nonprofit organization founded in 1969 and headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, dedicated to empowering Latino communities through comprehensive programs in education, economic development, housing, and advocacy. As one of the largest Latino-led nonprofits in the United States, CPLC serves over a million individuals annually across Arizona and neighboring states, focusing on advancing social and economic equity. The organization offers a wide range of services including affordable housing development, workforce training, health services, and community engagement initiatives designed to improve quality of life and promote self-sufficiency. With a strong commitment to education, CPLC also provides scholarships and support programs to help Latino students access higher education and develop leadership skills, fostering the next generation of community leaders and advocates. CPLC offers a variety of scholarships aimed at supporting Latino students pursuing higher education in Arizona.



Environmental Professionals of Arizona (EPAZ)

Designed to support students pursuing careers in environmental science, engineering, or related fields. The scholarship aims to encourage and assist undergraduate and graduate students in Arizona who are committed to advancing environmental protection, sustainability, and conservation efforts. It provides financial assistance to students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential, and a passion for environmental issues.



[Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program](#)

A prestigious initiative designed to inspire and support undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in pursuing careers in conservation and environmental science. The program provides scholarships, hands-on research opportunities, and mentorship to help students develop the skills and knowledge needed to address environmental challenges. Participants engage in fieldwork, research projects, and internships with conservation organizations, while also receiving professional development support. The program aims to increase diversity in the conservation field by providing access and opportunities to students from underrepresented groups.



[Rob Krentz Scholarship](#)

Offered by the Malpai Borderlands Group, provides financial support to students pursuing careers in rangeland management, wildlife conservation, and related fields. Named in honor of Rob Krentz, a conservationist and rancher, the scholarship encourages students committed to sustainable land practices and environmental stewardship. It is open to high school seniors, college, and graduate students studying environmental science, wildlife biology, rangeland management, or agriculture. The scholarship aims to support future leaders dedicated to preserving the Malpai Borderlands ecosystem through education and hands-on conservation work.



[Rotary Foundation of Arizona](#)

A part of the global Rotary movement, which is committed to improving communities through service, leadership, and fellowship. The foundation supports a wide range of charitable projects across Arizona, focusing on education, health, clean water, youth development, and community empowerment. Rotary clubs across the state collaborate to fund and implement sustainable projects that address local and global challenges. Community members can engage by joining a local Rotary club, participating in service projects, or supporting the foundation's efforts through donations.



[Santa Cruz County Community Foundation](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, by supporting local initiatives in education, healthcare, environmental conservation, and community development. SCCF works to strengthen the county's social fabric through grants, programs, and partnerships that address pressing community needs. The foundation focuses on empowering local residents, nonprofits, and businesses to collaborate on solutions that foster a more sustainable and equitable future for the region. Community members can engage by donating, volunteering, or participating in the foundation's various initiatives aimed at improving the well-being of Santa Cruz County residents.



[The Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation \(SARSEF\)](#)



The Southern Arizona Research, Science, and Engineering Foundation (SARSEF), hosted in partnership with the University of Arizona, is a leading STEM initiative serving Pre-K through 12th-grade youth across Southern Arizona—especially those from Title I and underserved schools. Their programming includes the famous SARSEF Regional Science and Engineering Fair, alongside summer camps like Camp Innovation, Racing the Sun, and middle-school ACES camps. Among these, STAR Lab is a standout: a semester-long high school research mentorship program (September–March) in which students aged 16+ conduct authentic science or engineering projects under supervision of UA or local STEM mentors, earning UA credit through MCB 103B (tuition ~\$176.50 with financial aid available) and culminating in presentations at fairs like SARSEF or the Arizona JSHS. SARSEF also offers teacher training, community outreach, and hands-on events at UA, making science accessible and inspiring throughout the region. Programs are open to Pre-K–12 students statewide, with an emphasis on underrepresented groups; STAR Lab is open to 16+ high schoolers.

[Udall Undergraduate Scholarship](#)



A prestigious national award for college sophomores and juniors committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy, or Native American health care. Administered by the Udall Foundation, the scholarship honors the legacies of Morris and Stewart Udall, who championed environmental conservation and Native American rights. Recipients in the environmental category must demonstrate leadership, public service, and a strong commitment to environmental issues through their studies and extracurricular work. The scholarship provides up to \$7,000 for educational expenses and includes access to a network of scholars and a week-long orientation focused on professional development, environmental policy, and Native American issues.

NON-ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

[AmeriCorps](#)

AmeriCorps is a national service program where members sign up for terms lasting typically between a couple of months and a year, with options to serve part time or full time, and to travel or remain stationed depending on the specific program. Members are paid a regular stipend during the duration of their service as well as a Segal Education Award scholarship that can be used for university or professional education. Completing an AmeriCorps term is a great way to build hands-on experience and connect with the leaders in your field of interest while doing impactful work early in your career.



AmeriCorps

- » AmeriCorps [National Civilian Community Corps \(NCCC\)](#): A full-time, team-based program that engages young adults (ages 18-26) in intensive service projects across the United States. NCCC members work on a wide range of projects that focus on environmental conservation, disaster relief, infrastructure improvement, and community development. In Arizona, NCCC teams participate in environmental restoration, habitat conservation, wildfire prevention, and sustainability initiatives, often partnering with local organizations, government agencies, and nonprofits.
- » [AmeriCorps State & National](#): A program that supports a wide range of local service organizations by funding AmeriCorps members who serve directly in communities. These members tackle pressing challenges like education, public health, disaster response, and economic opportunity, usually serving with nonprofits, schools, public agencies, or community-based groups.
- » [AmeriCorps VISTA \(Volunteers in Service to America\)](#): A national service program focused on alleviating poverty. VISTA members serve full-time for one year with nonprofit organizations and public agencies to build capacity, develop sustainable solutions, and expand access to resources in low-income communities. Rather than providing direct service, VISTA members strengthen organizations by improving systems, securing funding, recruiting volunteers, and building partnerships.

[Arizona Association for Environmental Education - eeCertification Program](#)

This 100-hour self-paced, reviewer-supported certification is a year-long, independent, online portfolio-building process where participants work one-on-one with mentors to complete assignments to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities. It IS NOT a weekly facilitated course, although participants may wish to connect with other cohort members throughout the year.



**ARIZONA
ASSOCIATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION**

[Arizona Association for Environmental Education - eeFellows Program](#)

The AAEE eeFellows Program is a career-development program for young professionals aged 18-23 designed to advance the environmental education profession. Participants work with organizations on critical environmental education projects and design a portfolio of work. Participants are paired with a mentor working in the field and together complete an action-based project that can be added to the eeFellow's portfolio.



[Arizona Conservation Corps](#)

A nonprofit organization that engages young adults and veterans in meaningful conservation service throughout Arizona and the Southwest. Participants join field crews or individual placements to work on hands-on environmental projects such as trail construction, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, wildfire mitigation, and archaeological site preservation. AZCC partners with public land agencies, tribal communities, and nonprofits to protect natural and cultural resources while fostering leadership, job skills, and environmental stewardship among members.



[Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner Program](#)

SER's CERP program encourages a high professional standard for those who are designing, implementing, overseeing, and monitoring ecological restoration projects throughout the world. As the only international certification program for ecological restoration practitioners, CERP sets a high standard that benefits employers, the public, and clients when it comes to working with restoration practitioners.



[Earth Island Institute's New Leaders Initiative](#)

The Brower Youth Awards honor six outstanding young environmental leaders (ages 13-22) from North America each year. These awards recognize youth who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in environmental and social justice projects, ranging from climate activism and conservation to food sovereignty and environmental education. They also award fellowships for university students.



[Environmental Defense Fund - EDF Climate Corps](#)

EDF Climate Corps is a summer fellowship program run by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) that trains and places graduate students in leading organizations to advance clean energy and sustainability initiatives. Through this highly competitive program, fellows—often from business, public policy, or environmental science backgrounds—work on impactful projects like energy efficiency, decarbonization strategies, and climate risk assessment. The program combines hands-on experience with expert training, mentorship, and a nationwide professional network to equip the next generation of climate professionals.



Peace Corps

A U.S. government program that sends American volunteers abroad to promote peace, friendship, and sustainable development. Volunteers work in partnership with local communities on projects related to education, health, environment, youth development, agriculture, and economic empowerment. They serve for two years (plus training), often living in rural or underserved areas, gaining deep cross-cultural experience while making long-term community impact. The Peace Corps fosters mutual understanding and skills development for both volunteers and the communities they serve.



N-Gen Mentorship Program

The N-Gen Mentorship Program aims to directly support the next generation of Sonoran Desert Research in the region. The program creates a space for direct connections in which a mentor (an established researcher, conservationist, artist, or other professional) can offer their support, vision, and experience to an early-career member (mentee) of the network. N-Gen defines "early-career" as individuals in an undergraduate or graduate program, OR early-career individuals with or without degrees independently pursuing research outside of academia.



National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)

A global nonprofit wilderness education organization headquartered in Lander, Wyoming, offering expedition-based courses and professional training in leadership, outdoor skills, wilderness medicine, and risk management. While NOLS does not advertise traditional academic internships in conservation, it provides hands-on service expeditions where participants help restore trails, build structures, or support community projects in remote wilderness settings. For those interested in joining the organization, NOLS periodically offers staff internships, such as marketing or creative roles, typically at its headquarters or regional offices, often paid and lasting several months. Together, these pathways offer real-world experience in conservation-focused leadership, environmental education, and outdoor service.



Student Conservation Association

A national nonprofit that connects youth and young adults with conservation service opportunities across the U.S. Through internships, crew programs, and community-based projects, SCA members work to protect natural and cultural resources in national parks, forests, urban green spaces, and wildlife refuges. Projects range from trail maintenance and habitat restoration to environmental education and climate resilience efforts. SCA promotes environmental leadership, career readiness, and a lifelong ethic of stewardship.



[Watershed Management Group](#) Rainwater Harvesting Design Certificate



Embark on an educational journey unlike any other with Watershed Management Group's Water Harvesting Design Certification. This comprehensive 45-hour program combines hands-on workshops with in-depth classroom learning, providing a thorough understanding of sustainable water harvesting practices.



JOB BOARDS & RESOURCES

[Climatebase](#)



The world's leading climate-career platform based in San Francisco, California. It connects over 1 million jobseekers annually with a wide array of opportunities—jobs, internships, fellowships, and training programs—in climate tech, sustainability, policy, and nonprofit sectors. Beyond its job listings, Climatebase facilitates community growth through programs like the Climatebase Fellowship—an intensive career accelerator for climate professionals—and SF Climate Week, its flagship summit. With tools like AI-powered job matching, weekly newsletters for over 100,000 readers, and an active talent network, the platform empowers individuals to launch, pivot, or advance their climate-focused careers.

[Conservation Job Board](#)



An online platform that connects job seekers with career opportunities in environmental conservation. It features a range of positions across various sectors, including wildlife conservation, land management, climate change research, and environmental education. Listings include full-time, part-time, internship, and volunteer roles from government agencies, non-profits, and private organizations, offering a valuable resource for those looking to build a career in conservation and sustainability.

[Conservation Careers](#)



Is the world's largest online hub for conservation-focused work, listing thousands of current opportunities across jobs, internships, volunteer positions, and training programs in ecology, wildlife, forestry, marine biology, policy, and more. It serves as a one-stop platform for professionals, students, and career-switchers seeking to launch or advance conservation work—offering tailored filters for roles like land management, sustainability, and environmental education. Beyond job listings, the site provides free career advice, how-to guides, video training, and community forums to help users prepare strong applications and navigate the conservation sector.

[Commission for Environmental Cooperation \(CEC\)](#)

Established by the United States, Canada, and Mexico under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, supports trilateral collaboration on environmental issues across borders. Through its Youth Engagement and Environment Program, the CEC offers resources and



opportunities for youth and young professionals, including internships, grants, and the annual Youth Innovation Challenge, which invites creative solutions to pressing environmental problems. The CEC also provides educational materials, career development tools, and networking opportunities to empower the next generation of environmental leaders committed to sustainability and cross-border cooperation.

[Conservation Networking \(also called ConNet\)](#)

An international digital platform created in May 2020 that serves as a comprehensive job and opportunity hub for early-career conservationists, researchers, and students. It aggregates listings for jobs, internships, scholarships, and training programs in fields like sustainability, ecology, wildlife, and conservation science—especially aiming to make these opportunities more accessible across Africa and globally. Developed to address the scattered and often hidden nature of conservation openings, ConNet empowers emerging professionals by offering tailored filters, visibility across NGO and academic sectors, and capacity-building webinars on CV writing, networking, and marketable skills.



[North American Association for Environmental Education eeJobs](#)

A dedicated job board that connects individuals with job opportunities in the field of environmental education (EE). It features a wide range of listings, including positions for educators, administrators, program managers, and researchers in organizations focused on environmental education, sustainability, and conservation. The job board includes opportunities for full-time, part-time, and seasonal roles, as well as internships and volunteer positions, serving as a valuable resource for professionals seeking to advance their careers in the environmental education sector.



[USAJOBS](#)

The official employment website of the U.S. federal government, serving as the central platform for finding and applying to federal jobs across all agencies. It features a wide range of conservation and land management career opportunities with agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Positions commonly listed include park rangers, biological science technicians, forestry aids, fire management officers, environmental protection specialists, and natural resource managers. Job seekers can filter positions by location, salary, agency, and job type (seasonal, full-time, internships, etc.), making it a valuable tool for those pursuing careers in environmental stewardship, public land management, and ecological restoration.



[WWOOF \(World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms\)](#)

A global network that connects volunteers—often called WWOOFers—with organic farms and sustainable homesteads in more than 100 countries. WWOOFers exchange about 4–6 hours of daily farm work (like gardening, harvesting, or animal care) for food, lodging, and hands-on learning experiences, immersing themselves in ecological farming practices and rural life. Membership—through a small annual fee—provides access to farm listings, host reviews, and messaging tools to plan stays that can last from a few days to several months. Volunteers gain practical skills in organic agriculture, cultural exchange, and sustainable living—all while supporting small-scale farms and forming meaningful connections.



[Opportunities for Youth](#)

A global online platform that connects young people with life-changing opportunities such as scholarships, internships, conferences, fellowships, and training programs. Designed to make professional and educational resources more accessible, the platform curates a wide range of verified listings from around the world, empowering youth to build skills, gain experience, and expand their networks. It's especially helpful for students and early-career individuals seeking personal growth and global engagement—all in one easy-to-navigate website.



[eBird](#)

eBird, a project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is a global platform that allows bird enthusiasts—from beginners to seasoned ornithologists—to record and share bird observations. In southeastern Arizona's Santa Cruz and Cochise counties, a region renowned for its rich bird diversity and migratory flyways, eBird offers an invaluable tool for exploring avian life. Users can submit bird checklists from local hotspots like the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, and Ramsey Canyon. These observations contribute to a global database that supports bird research, conservation planning, and habitat protection.



eBird also fosters community engagement through events like the Great Backyard Bird Count, Christmas Bird Count, and local birding challenges hosted by Audubon chapters and nature centers. The app and website feature real-time maps, bar charts, and rare bird alerts, making it easy to plan birding outings or track seasonal migrations. Users can also earn digital "life lists" and track their sightings over time. Whether you're scanning for hummingbirds in your garden or spotting raptors along the borderlands, eBird helps you connect with a global birding community while supporting the conservation of species and habitats.

[EcoRestore Portal](#)

An interactive online platform designed to support ecological restoration efforts by providing easy access to data, tools,



and resources. Managed by the Arizona Institute for Resilience (AIR) at the University of Arizona, the portal was developed in collaboration with restoration scientists, land managers, and community partners across the Southwest. It serves as a one-stop hub where users can explore region-specific information such as seed selection guidance, restoration project mapping, site conditions, and climate data. Restoration practitioners, conservation groups, educators, and land stewards can use EcoRestore to make informed decisions, share best practices, and connect with others working on similar efforts. Whether you're planning a revegetation project or seeking locally adapted strategies, EcoRestore helps streamline planning and improves restoration outcomes across arid and semi-arid landscapes.

[Gardenroots](#)

The Gardenroots program, initiated by the University of Arizona, is a citizen science initiative designed to empower communities in evaluating and addressing environmental health concerns, particularly in areas affected by resource extraction and hazardous waste sites. In Cochise County, Arizona, Gardenroots collaborates with residents to assess the quality of soil, water, and plants, focusing on potential exposure to contaminants such as arsenic and lead. Participants are trained to collect samples from their gardens and surrounding environments, which are then analyzed by university researchers. Beyond individual education, Gardenroots fosters community engagement by organizing events like soilSHOPS and data-sharing gatherings, where residents can discuss findings and collaborate on solutions. The program also supports local advocacy efforts, helping communities leverage scientific data to inform environmental decision-making and policy. For those interested in participating, Gardenroots offers training sessions and resources to get involved in environmental monitoring and community science efforts.



[iNaturalist](#)

A powerful, user-friendly app that connects people with nature through citizen science. In the biodiverse regions of Santa Cruz and Cochise counties—and the greater U.S.-Mexico borderlands—iNaturalist allows users to photograph and identify plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms, while contributing their observations to a global biodiversity database. These observations help scientists monitor species distribution, track changes in ecosystems, and inform conservation efforts. The platform is especially valuable in the borderlands, where unique habitats like the Sky Islands, desert grasslands, and riparian corridors host rare and endemic species.



Residents and visitors can get involved through seasonal BioBlitzes, bird counts, moth monitoring events, and other community science projects that are hosted on iNaturalist. For example, the annual Border BioBlitz invites participants to document as many species as possible along the U.S.-Mexico border, while local events often focus on specific taxa like reptiles or native plants. Educators and families can use iNaturalist as an

engaging learning tool, and naturalists of all skill levels can join or create projects to track wildlife in their backyards, parks, or favorite trails. Whether you're hiking in the Chiricahua Mountains or strolling through Patagonia Lake, iNaturalist is a great way to deepen your connection to the natural world while contributing to science and conservation.

[Merlin Bird ID](#)

Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is a free, easy-to-use app that helps users identify birds by sight or sound. Especially useful in bird-rich areas like Santa Cruz and Cochise counties, Merlin allows users to snap a photo or record a bird song to get instant identification, even without cell service once the regional bird pack is downloaded. It's a perfect tool for beginners and experienced birders alike, making birdwatching more accessible across the Sky Islands, riparian corridors, and desert grasslands of the borderlands region. Merlin also integrates with eBird, allowing users to save their sightings and contribute to global bird science.



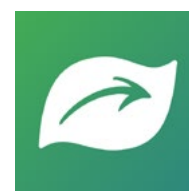
[Project Learning Tree](#)

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an environmental education program that empowers educators and youth to explore and learn about the natural world. Through a range of hands-on, inquiry-based activities, PLT provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand and address environmental challenges. The program targets educators, youth leaders, and students from preschool to high school, offering curriculum resources, professional development, and community-based projects that promote sustainability, environmental stewardship, and critical thinking. PLT is a program of the American Forest Foundation and is widely recognized for its efforts to foster environmental literacy and conservation awareness.



[Seek by iNaturalist](#)

A family-friendly nature exploration app designed to help users—especially kids and beginners—identify plants, animals, and fungi in real time using their smartphone camera. Unlike iNaturalist, Seek does not require an account or internet connection once species packs are downloaded, making it ideal for schools, outdoor programs, and community events. The app encourages curiosity and learning by awarding badges for discoveries and seasonal challenges. Created to make nature more accessible and engaging, Seek helps users build observation skills while deepening their connection to local ecosystems. Communities can use it for nature walks, BioBlitzes, youth science clubs, and outdoor education programs to spark interest in biodiversity and environmental stewardship.



[USA National Phenology Network](#)

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) is a nationwide initiative that engages people in tracking seasonal changes in plants



and animals—like blooming flowers, migrating birds, or leaf color—to better understand how ecosystems respond to climate and environmental shifts. Through its community science program, Nature’s Notebook, individuals, families, and educators can observe and record these changes, contributing valuable data used by scientists and land managers for research and conservation. The platform offers free tools, lesson plans, and seasonal challenges, making it a great way to connect with nature, support climate science, and enhance environmental education in backyards, classrooms, and community spaces.



OPORTUNIDADES EN EL NORTE DE MÉXICO

Esta guía de recursos es una herramienta que te ayudará a encontrar oportunidades de aprendizaje. Ya sea que busques mejorar tus habilidades académicas o en campo, explorar nuevas actividades después del Curso de Campo en Zonas Fronterizas, integrarte a un grupo comunitario, hacer voluntariados o encontrar un empleo. Aquí también encontrarás información sobre las y los presentadores y colaboradores del curso. Siéntete libre de compartirla con alguien que la necesite.

Grupos comunitarios

[Caminantes del Desierto](#)

Colectivo dedicado a la restauración del ecosistema, políticas públicas, educación ambiental y empoderamiento comunitario para conservar el Desierto de Sonora.

Oportunidades: Voluntariado, servicio social.

Ubicación: Hermosillo, Sonora.

Contacto: colectivo@caminantesdeldesierto.org



[Pajareras del Desierto](#)

Grupo de mujeres multidisciplinarias, entre especialistas y entusiastas, que practican la observación de aves en Hermosillo, contribuyen a la concientización sobre la importancia de las aves, un ambiente sano y la conservación de las áreas verdes en la ciudad y sus alrededores.

Oportunidades: Unirse a salidas de observación de aves.

Ubicación: Hermosillo, Sonora.

Contacto: pajarerasdeldesierto@gmail.com



Grupo Tortuguero de Bahía de Kino

Grupo comunitario basado en la conservación de las Tortugas Marinas en áreas de alimentación a través del monitoreo.



Ubicación: Bahía de Kino, Sonora.

Douglas Prieta Trabaja

Proyecto de autoayuda, su propósito es ayudar a las personas y familias de las colonias populares mediante el desarrollo de las capacidades locales para la autosuficiencia económica. Actualmente, la pieza central del programa es un sitio de demostración de permacultura diseñado para enseñar a las familias técnicas de producción sostenible de alimentos.

El objetivo es reducir el coste de vida y, al mismo tiempo, construir una ética de ayuda mutua entre los vecinos para reducir la dependencia de los débiles mercados de trabajo, la asistencia gubernamental, la caridad y el cruce de fronteras.



Oportunidades: Voluntariado.

Ubicación: Agua Prieta, Sonora.

Contacto: dpt_rosalinda@hotmail.com

Asociaciones y Organizaciones No Gubernamentales

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies conserva las aves y sus hábitats mediante un enfoque integrado de ciencia, educación y gestión del territorio. Imaginando un futuro en el que las aves abundan para siempre, contribuyendo a la salud de los paisajes e inspirando la curiosidad humana y el amor por la naturaleza. Su trabajo se extiende desde las Rocosas hasta las Grandes Llanuras, México y más allá. Los esfuerzos de BCR se basan en conocimientos científicos sólidos, en la capacitación de las personas, en la gestión y en la colaboración.



Oportunidades: Empleo, capacitación, voluntariado, internados.

Ubicación: Fort Collins, Colorado.

Contacto: info@birdconservancy.org

Centro de Rescate, Rehabilitación e Investigación de Fauna Silvestre A.C.

Organización no lucrativa comprometida con la protección y conservación de la fauna silvestre nativa de México. Su misión es rescatar, rehabilitar y reintroducir a su entorno natural en el menor



tiempo posible, a la fauna silvestre cuya integridad o salud estén en riesgo, siempre con trato humanitario, los mejores recursos posibles, sin participación en controversias y con espíritu de inclusión de la comunidad. Lo anterior dentro de los marcos de la normatividad vigente. Realizan investigación biológica y veterinaria básicas y aplicadas al mejoramiento del rescate, rehabilitación y reintroducción de la fauna silvestre.

Oportunidades: Empleo, voluntariado.

Ubicación: San Carlos, Sonora.

Contacto: contacto@crriifs.org

Cuenca Los Ojos

Un área protegida de 49,000 hectáreas (121,000 acres) en las Islas del Cielo de Sonora, México. Situada junto a la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, Cuenca Los Ojos protege los humedales desérticos, los pastizales abiertos y las montañas del Archipiélago Madreano, restaurando y repoblando tierras de rancho degradadas, mediante la reparación de los cursos de agua y la reactivación de los procesos naturales de herbivoría, depredación, polinización, incendios, secuestro de carbono y ciclo de nutrientes. Actualmente, Cuenca Los Ojos es el hogar del jaguar, el ocelote, el oso negro, el castor y otras muchas especies amenazadas y en peligro de extinción.



Oportunidades: Voluntariado, estadías.

Ubicación: Agua Prieta, Sonora.

Contacto: ocaballero@cuencalosojos.org

Gila Hikers

Organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a la concientización de la fauna ponzoñosa. Su misión es generar una identidad con la fauna local y generar conocimiento a través de material audiovisual de alta calidad. Gila Hikers ha colaborado con instituciones e investigadores internacionales y nacionales y presentado resultados de investigación en congresos y eventos de difusión en México y otros países.



Oportunidades: Unirse a caminatas nocturnas.

Ubicación: Hermosillo, Sonora.

Contacto: gilahikersmx@gmail.com

Estudiantes Conservando la Naturaleza A.C.

Son una organización civil mexicana que se dedica a conservar las tortugas terrestres y de agua dulce de México a través de la investigación, el monitoreo, la restauración, y la participación de estudiantes de las comunidades locales. Al mismo tiempo, apoyar a estos jóvenes a desarrollar



su potencial como ciudadanos productivos, responsables y centinelas de su medio ambiente.

Oportunidades: Voluntariado.

Ubicación: Álamos, Sonora.

Contacto: info@studentsconservingnature.org

Evaluación Integral y Restauración del Hábitat A.C. (EIRHA)

Es una asociación civil debidamente constituida en la ciudad de Chihuahua, Chihuahua el 13 de junio del 2022. Sus integrantes cuentan con más de siete años de experiencia en la conservación de la vida silvestre y sus diversos hábitats a través de la investigación, extensionismo y manejo integral de los recursos naturales en el Desierto Chihuahuense. En su trabajo en la conservación de hábitat de los pastizales se han asociado con Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR) para acciones de manejo, monitoreo biológico y educación ambiental.



EIRHA cuenta con un equipo sólido que trabaja en diversas áreas, definiéndose como el vínculo entre la planificación, la gestión adaptativa para la conservación de la biodiversidad y el mejoramiento de la calidad de vida de los habitantes de los ecosistemas donde trabajamos.

El trabajo de la organización se centra en manejar, conservar y restaurar los ecosistemas a través de la investigación, ciencia, educación, extensionismo y colaboración con los actores directos de la tierra (comunidades, propietarios, ciudades y estado) de la nación.

Oportunidades: Servicio social, prácticas profesionales.

Ubicación: Chihuahua, Chihuahua.

Contacto: ajp.vega@gmail.com

Naco Wellness Initiative

Asociación que brinda atención médica, educación sobre jardinería y bienestar, y desarrollo económico a los residentes de ambos Naco en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos.



NWI creó un proyecto de huertos familiares y comunitarios como parte de sus talleres de prevención y tratamiento de la diabetes. Este proyecto promueve productos frescos y saludables mediante la creación de huertos individuales y comunitarios. Se instruye a los participantes en la preparación del suelo, el compostaje orgánico, la plantación, el mantenimiento del huerto, el acolchado y la conservación del agua, la cosecha y la conservación, y la colecta de semillas. Plantar, cosechar y preparar una variedad de verduras ayuda a prevenir enfermedades, crea hábitos alimentarios saludables e inculca un sentimiento de orgullo que no se puede comprar en ninguna tienda de comestibles.

El objetivo es mostrar a la gente cómo cultivar sus propias hortalizas y enseñarles qué tipos de alimentos aportan más beneficios nutricionales.

Oportunidades: Voluntariado.

Ubicación: Naco, Sonora. Naco, Arizona.

Contacto: nacowellness@gmail.com

Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional (Sierra Madre)

Conserva paisajes biológicamente diversos en América Latina, en acuerdo con las culturas locales para el bienestar del planeta. Su estrategia es asociarse con las comunidades locales para proteger la naturaleza. Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional trabaja con pueblos indígenas, comunidades y gobiernos locales para establecer áreas protegidas, para después monitorear y conservar esas áreas a largo plazo.



Oportunidades: Voluntariado.

Ubicación: Álamos, Sonora.

Contacto: hola@naturalezaycultura.org

Organizaciones No Gubernamentales orientadas al manejo y restauración de los ecosistemas

Café Justo

Cooperativa de productores de café, se dedican a la producción y comercialización de café puro y orgánico, cultivado y cosechado con espíritu de justicia. Su objetivo es incentivar a las y los caficultores para que permanezcan en sus tierras, con sus familias. La misión de Café Justo es proporcionar la capacitación y los recursos necesarios para que las y los caficultores puedan crear y mantener una empresa internacional de café sostenible, a pequeña escala, trasladando así los beneficios de las grandes empresas internacionales a los miembros de una cooperativa de café con sede en Salvador Urbina.



Oportunidades: Empleo en Café Justo y Más.

Ubicación: Agua Prieta, Sonora.

Colectivo Sonora Silvestre

Fundado alrededor de 2018 por un grupo de jóvenes biólogos en Hermosillo, Sonora, el Colectivo trabaja para preservar la flora y la fauna nativa mediante iniciativas de monitoreo ecológico



y restauración de hábitats. El grupo lidera una Red de Monitoreo de Especies Extraordinarias, que documenta especies vegetales raras y en peligro de extinción, como *Cirsium wrightii*, *Eryngium sparganophyllum*, *Castilleja ornata* y *Pediomelum pentaphyllum*, en manantiales y ciénagas del desierto, colaborando con las comunidades locales y los propietarios de tierras para proteger estos frágiles ecosistemas. También involucran a voluntarios en la germinación de plantas nativas, la reforestación y la divulgación ecológica, donando viveros alimentados con energía solar y coordinándose con grupos vecinales para ampliar los espacios verdes urbanos y combatir las islas de calor en Hermosillo. Este colectivo ofrece valiosas oportunidades para la educación, la ciencia ciudadana y el trabajo de restauración aplicada en la región del desierto de Sonora.

La Tierra Del Jaguar

Una organización binacional sin fines de lucro 501(c)(3) con sede en Tucson, Arizona, y Sahuaripa, Sonora, dedicada a restaurar el hábitat del jaguar mediante la agricultura regenerativa, la restauración del paisaje y la construcción natural en comunidades dentro del área de distribución norte del jaguar. En su sitio de demostración de 25 acres a lo largo del Río Sahuaripa, organizan talleres gratuitos e inclusivos para jóvenes y adultos, en los que enseñan agroforestería, cultivo de plantas nativas y estrategias de medios de vida regenerativos que benefician tanto a las personas como a la vida silvestre. Aunque no ofrecen prácticas formales, la organización ofrece oportunidades de aprendizaje práctico en la comunidad y programas de colaboración profunda, ideales para aquellos interesados en la restauración ecológica, la conservación liderada por la comunidad y las habilidades regenerativas en la región del jaguar.



Oportunidades: Voluntariado.

Ubicación: Sahuaripa, Sonora.

Northern Jaguar Project

El Proyecto Jaguar del Norte (NJP) preserva y recupera la población de jaguar más septentrional del mundo, sus hábitats naturales únicos y la fauna nativa bajo su protección como especie emblemática, clave y paraguas. Algunos de sus objetivos incluyen; Proteger a la población nortea de jaguares de la caza furtiva ilegal, la pérdida de hábitat y otras amenazas, llevar a cabo y promover la investigación científica sobre el jaguar y su variado hábitat, así como sobre las especies nativas de su área de distribución del norte, proporcionar un santuario de tamaño y ubicación adecuados para garantizar el futuro de la población de jaguares, facilitar proyectos de concienciación, educación y conservación en las comunidades locales y regionales.



Oportunidades: Voluntariado.

Ubicación: Sahuaripa, Sonora.

Programas de Educación / Liderazgo / Entrenamientos

National Outdoor Leadership School

Escuela de educación al aire libre sin fines de lucro dedicada a la enseñanza de ética medioambiental, técnicas al aire libre, medicina natural, gestión de riesgos y juicio, y liderazgo en expediciones prolongadas a zonas salvajes y en aulas tradicionales.



La misión de la escuela NOLS es ser la fuente educativa líder en técnicas de vida al aire libre y liderazgo que sirva a la gente y proteja al medio ambiente.

Oportunidades: Cursos

Ubicación: Mulegé, Baja California Sur. Coyhaique, Chile.

Contacto: mexico_admisiones@nols.edu

La Próxima Generación de Investigadores del Desierto de Sonora (NGEN)

Es una red de individuos comprometidos con el rico paisaje social y ecológico que abarca el Desierto de Sonora continental, la Península de Baja California, el Golfo de California y las zonas fronterizas entre Estados Unidos y México. Esta red interdisciplinaria aborda los desafíos de investigación y conservación de nuestro tiempo dentro de esta región multinacional. Dedicada al espíritu del Desierto de Sonora, N-Gen cataliza la investigación y la colaboración biocultural, desarrolla la capacidad para la acción transdisciplinaria innovadora e influye en los tomadores de decisiones en ambos países para promover una ética de conservación que esté a la altura de la grandeza del paisaje.



Oportunidades: Expediciones

Contacto: nextgensd2012@gmail.com

JOB PATHWAYS







www.borderlandsrestoration.org/education

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