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BIRD BY BIRD OVERVIEW

Bird By Bird is a birding program - bringing birds to classrooms and classrooms to birds!

Birding has many life-long benefits that can instill respect for our natural resources and leads to a strong sense of place, stewardship of habitats, and dedication to wildlife heritage. Birding is also a great way for youth to learn how to observe, focus attention, and develop the intellectual curiosity needed for healthy physical, mental and emotional development.

“Bird by Bird” started as an Idaho-based program that teaches youth from preschool through high school about birds and their habitats. This program provides the opportunity for students to learn in outdoor environments about biology, ecology, and the complex interrelationships between wildlife, habitats, and humans. It has operated in Boise Valley schools since 2008 and was adapted for Pennsylvania in 2023.

The Idaho program has demonstrated 14 solid years of growth and stability and has expanded throughout the state. Oregon Bird by Bird was founded in 2014, and Michigan piloted the program in 2017. It is estimated that over 9,000 students have passed through “Bird by Bird” since its inception. Due to the commitment of partners, schools and parents, yearly participation is renewed with enthusiasm because of the positive benefits to our youth, who will grow into the next generation of conservation leaders, wildlife stewards and outdoor enthusiasts.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission and its partners fund and operate the entire program at no cost to the schools. Partners provide facilitation, birding feeding equipment, seed for the entire school year, field guides, educational resources, and binoculars. Partners also help schools with field trip transportation, bird and nature walks, virtual and in person presentations, and other educational activities.

The primary community scientists and caretakers of the equipment are the students, who feed the birds, monitor bird behavior and document data. “Project WILD”, Flying Wild”, and online lesson plans are often used as the curriculum for classroom projects. Schools are responsible for care of equipment and books.





TEACHER AGREEMENT 2023-2024

BIRD BY BIRD TEACHERS AGREE TO:

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR:

- Gain School Principal/Director support to participate in program, and support installing a bird feeder(s) on school grounds. Support from school maintenance personnel may also be important.
- Install and maintain bird feeding and watching equipment outside classroom, and practice safe cleaning and handling of equipment and feeders.
- Secure permission and photo release forms from all students.
- Maintain and properly care for all bird feeding equipment, binoculars, and books. Seed must be filled in feeders at all times.
- Encourage student participation in bird feeding, observation and data entry of observations, field trips, special events, and class projects.
- Complete a bird-related classroom or individual project by end of May.
- Schedule quarterly classroom visits with your “Bird by Bird” facilitators.

EACH MONTH:

- Observe and record bird observations using Project Feederwatch and/or eBird.
- Submit classroom summaries throughout the year. 3-5 sentences with photos/video. These will be used internally for project presentations and externally for social media postings.

END OF SCHOOL YEAR:

- Complete the inventory sheet, clean, pack, and store the equipment.
- Submit a teacher’s end-of-year Summary Report (1 page or less)

TEACHER NAME _____ SCHOOL/GRADE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____





PHOTO RELEASE 2023-2024

AGREEMENT FOR USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE BIRD BY BIRD PROGRAM 2023-2024

- A signed release is required from parents of minors. Completed forms are held by the program's coordinator (Pennsylvania Game Commission) and copies are provided to schools. They are confidential.
- I hereby grant permission to agents of the "Bird by Bird Pennsylvania" to make visual and/or audio recordings and still images of my minor child participating in "Bird by Bird" activities.
- I also grant permission to the "Bird by Bird Pennsylvania" to use this minor's photographic, video graphic, and/or audio image and/or likeness in official publications, displays, websites and other educational purposes.
- I also understand that a computer user can download the images, photographs, video recordings, and/or audio recordings. The image will be credited to the "Bird by Bird Pennsylvania" unless otherwise noted below.
- Therefore, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless from any claims the following:
"Bird by Bird Pennsylvania"
Sponsoring partners of "Bird by Bird Pennsylvania" (federal, state, nonprofit organizations)

I AGREE to the above release for my minor child (Name) _____

I do NOT agree to the above release for my minor child (Name) _____

SCHOOL: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

