

## **Wings Over Sabino New Elementary Kit Available for Fall 2010**

The Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists are excited to announce the availability of a new kit, Wings Over Sabino. We encourage elementary teachers to review the description and focal points of the kit below and consider giving it a try when you bring your next class to Sabino Canyon on a field trip.

Wings Over Sabino kit is a program designed for grades 3, 4 or 5 about winged wildlife in Sabino Canyon. The emphasis is on birds, but butterflies and bats are included to illustrate the differences and similarities between these groups of flying creatures and their importance in the web of life.

The focal points of this kit are:

1. To understand the characteristics of birds that enable birds to fly.
2. To learn how different types of beaks and feet determine what a bird eats and how it obtains its food.
3. To identify some of the common birds of Sabino Canyon and encourage learning more about them.
4. To learn about bat behavior (especially how they are able to navigate in the dark via echolocation) and to dispel some common misconceptions about bats.
5. To learn about the life cycle of the Queen butterfly, a common butterfly in Sabino Canyon.
6. To understand why some birds, bats and butterflies migrate.
7. To gain an appreciation of the importance of Sabino Canyon and other riparian habitats for the preservation of these species.

The program begins with photographs and a discussion of cool facts to introduce the 15 common local birds, the Queen butterfly, and bats found in Sabino Canyon. Students will learn about advantages of flight and how birds fly. Different types of nests are described and student may construct a nest from grass, twigs or other materials. Students will also inspect several lunch bags for birds and report on which birds eat which lunch. The Life of Birds board game reviews the concepts presented in the kit.

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