The Wildlife Center of Virginia

- What is WCV?
- General info
- Opportunities for Students
- Resources for Teachers
A teaching hospital for native Virginia wildlife

- Founded in 1982
- Located in Waynesboro
- A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- Depends primarily on private donations – not federal, state, or local government funding – for programs and services.
Mission

Teaching the world to care about and to care for wildlife and the environment

Outreach Programs

Professional Training Programs
General Info

- WCV admits an average of 2,500 animals per year
- During the past 35 years, the Wildlife Center has treated more than 70,000 wild animals representing more than 200 species of native birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.
The Wildlife Center in 2016:

- Admitted 2,577 patients
  - Around 197 reptiles and amphibians of 18 species
  - More than 1,176 mammals of 33 species
  - Nearly 1,204 native birds of 103 species
Public Outreach

WHAT IS OUTREACH?

WHY IT’S IMPORTANT

HOW WE ENGAGE THE PUBLIC

Raina Krasner

Alex Wehrung
Outreach

Hospital

Outreach

Public
The conservation themes we emphasize in all of our education lessons are drawn directly from the stories of the thousands of wild animals that arrive at the Wildlife Center’s doorstep every year in need of care. The stories of these animals illustrate the wider problems wildlife face — litter, pesticides, free-roaming domestic animals, habitat loss, and diseases — and challenge people of all ages to take action to protect wildlife.
Storytelling

Ruby the Red-tailed Hawk

No litter is "safe" litter

Remember the message of the apple core
Learning Opportunities for Students

LIVE PROGRAMS & SCHOOL VISITS

ON-SITE TOURS & FIELD TRIPS

ONLINE PROGRAMS & EVENTS
Live Programs

- Classroom visits
- Assembly programs (up to ~300 students)
- Feature 3 live animals
- A variety of themes, including: birds of prey, snakes, nocturnal animals, habitat, litter, owls, winter adaptations, and more.
- Approximately 45 minutes
Tours & Field Trips

• 1-hr Wildlife Center Tour

• 2-hr Hospital & Habitat*  
  (Tour with guided nature hike)

• Video tour of treatment areas

• See ~12 education raptors

*Not available November 1 - March 1
Online Education

- Critter Cam: Online 24 hours a day!
- Wildlife Center Classroom Series (monthly)
- Hospital Cam (monthly)
- Cam in the Classroom
- Caring for Critters
Social Media

- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Pinterest
Resources for Teachers

SCHEDULING TOURS & PRESENTATIONS

UTILIZING ONLINE PROGRAMS & EVENTS

GRANT FUNDING & SPONSORSHIPS
Scheduling Programs: Just a Click Away!

- **Wildlifecenter.org/education-outreach**

  - **Off-site Program Fees:**
    - $250/program + mileage
    - $160/each additional program

  - **On-site Program Fees:**
    - 1-hr Tour = $5/person (minimum fee of $100)
    - Hospital & Habitat = $7/person (minimum fee of $140)
    - 1 adult chaperone free of charge for every 5 children
Online Program Resources

- **Wildlife Center Classroom Series:** An informal opportunity for teachers and classes to become familiar with the moderated discussion and the caliber of online programs offered.
  - Take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm Eastern.

- **Cam in the Classroom:** Takes place on the moderated discussion at a time selected by the host teacher.
  - Classroom’s students are the only active participants during the session.
  - Teachers may submit questions to the outreach staff member ahead of time, or may ask the questions “live” during the session.
Online Program Resources

• **Caring for Critters:**

  • Adopt an education animal for your classroom and receive a sponsorship package as well as regular email updates on your animal throughout the school year.

  • Academic-year sponsorships are available for $35; these include additional updates on Critter Cam events and other animal-specific information upon request.
Integrating Online Programs with STEM

- **Computer Science**
  - Keyboard/typing skills during moderated discussions, video- and photo-editing, online patient journals, etc.

- **Geography**
  - Mapping geographic ranges of patients, following GPS-based tracking devices on released patients, etc.

- **Math**
  - Graphing education ambassador data, measuring areas & perimeters of outdoor enclosures, measuring statistics of species frequencies, etc.

- **Life Sciences**
  - Species identification, anatomy, raptor pellet dissection, etc.

- **Complete list at wildlifecenter.org/wildlife-lesson-plan-ideas**

- **Formal lesson plans available soon**
Grants and Sponsorships

A number of caring individuals are willing to underwrite the cost of a Caring for Critters sponsorship for a classroom. Contact us at outreach@wildlifecenter.org for more information.

Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
Classrooms that participate in a Cam in the Classroom session are eligible to receive a free program (on- or off-site). Limited to teachers and educators in Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta, Nelson, and Highland Counties.

Bama Works Fund
Classrooms that participate in a Cam in the Classroom session are eligible to receive a free program (on- or off-site). Limited to teachers and educators in the City of Charlottesville, and counties of Albemarle, Greene, Orange, Louisa, Fluvanna, Buckingham, and Nelson.
Questions?