



Back to the Wild Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Education Center

First of all, thank you so much for considering our center for your event! Back to the Wild is a 501(c)3 wildlife rehabilitation and nature education center. We rescue over 2,500 animals every year and do everything in our power to heal them and get them back to where they belong: the wild. Mona Rutger, who founded Back to the Wild in 1990, realized early on that many of the animals we helped were not coming to us as patients because of nature. In fact, over 90% of the animals we rescue every year are injured due to human carelessness. We have jars upon jars filled with fishing line, garden netting, and other garbage that we have taken off of and out of animals. We were also getting a significant number of baby animals who had been taken from their mothers by well-meaning people who thought they had been abandoned. It became clear that we had to adjust our mission.

Today, with the help of our wildlife ambassadors, we go into our community and talk to around 50,000 people each year about conservation and the wonderful world of wildlife. We are passionate about the natural world and we use that passion to inspire curiosity and a love and respect for the natural world in visitors young and old. Every May, buses upon buses roll into our drive bearing hundreds of school kids excited and eager to see these magnificent animals up close and learn about the amazing world in their own backyards. Education is key to making a difference.

Below are some frequently asked questions about our programs. **PLEASE READ TO THE END AS IT CONTAINS VITAL INFORMATION ON WHAT WE NEED TO SET UP AT A PROGRAM LOCATED AT YOUR VENUE.**

What kind of content do you include in a program?

We have a wide variety of amazing animals to discuss and delight our audience with

- We teach about the incredible birds of prey found in this area of the United States as well as their impact on the environment.
- We also include fun facts and tidbits about reptiles, amphibians, insects, and mammals
- If the time of year works out, we would also include live caterpillars and butterflies.
- Aside from fun facts about all of these amazing animals, we include important information about habitats, life histories, and more. Sounds boring, right? But don't worry! We work hard to make it fun and interesting for our audience.



Human impact

- It is important to us to get across the message that we can all make a difference. Many injuries wild animals sustain due to human impact are completely preventable.

Above all, we want our audience to **LEARN**, but we also want them to have **FUN**. We pride ourselves on making our presentations enjoyable and on our educators being charismatic and friendly.

What kind of animals are included in your exhibit?

- **Birds:** Red-tailed hawk, great-horned owl, barn owl, barred owl, red and gray morph Eastern screech owls, and a bald eagle (if available). The following birds are on exhibit for programs at the center only: Herons, egrets, ducks, vultures, songbirds, and more.
- **Reptiles/amphibians:** Salamanders, toads, several species of native and non-native snakes, box turtles, and tortoises (weather permitting).
- **Mammals:** Our mammals are on exhibit for programs at Back to the Wild only. They include a bobcat, foxes, flying squirrels (if available), and more.
- **Insects:** Depending on the time of year we will have monarch larvae, eggs, and butterflies as well as other moth and butterfly larvae. We may also include walking stick insects and praying mantids.



How many people can you accommodate at your center?



- Due to how small kids are, we can accommodate up to 120 children 10 years old or younger.
- For older youth and adults, we can accommodate around 70 people. If your number is higher than that, you can contact Heather Tuttle (information below) for other options.

If my group comes to Back to the Wild, can they eat there?

Yes! We have a pavilion with picnic tables and a pit for a bonfire to roast hotdogs and marshmallows. We provide the wood for the bonfire, please don't bring your own. There is no additional cost to use this, just let us know!

What kind of set up do you need for a program away from your center?

For indoor programs

- We will need **eight 6 to 8-foot tables** with enough space to accommodate them and leave room for a caution zone so people don't get too close to the animals.
- We should be able to have about 3 feet behind the tables and at least 10 feet in front.
- We will need to be able to arrive one hour before the program start time and have an hour after the program end time to set up and tear down.
- We will need easy access to the area as it takes several trips back and forth to unload our van.
- If you want the eagle to be there, we will require an additional **12 ft. square** area for her to sit on her perch and leave enough room to rope off the public so they cannot get too close.

****For outdoor programs, we will need all of the above **as well as a tent to keep the animals safe from the elements**. The tent should be around 20 ft x 30 ft.

We **cannot** be set up near areas where bands are playing or other **excessively** loud events are taking place as music and other loud noises can be very stressful to the animals.

We will need easy access to the program area to transport the many animals who come to help us educate.



WHAT IF MY PROGRAM CAN'T HAVE ANIMALS?

We have a wide array of education tools to help us give a truly rounded and fun presentation. If it is possible to provide a table, we can bring some very amazing things for people to see!

We will need a projector and a screen for our Back to the Wild power point if at all possible.

We will need space for a few posters.

What does it cost to have a program from Back to the Wild?

See the price info sheet. You can get this sheet from www.backtothewild.org/events or by emailing Heather Tuttle at staff@backtothewild.org



Thanks again for considering Back to the Wild for your program! If you would like to know anything else or have any other questions, you can contact Heather Tuttle at staff@backtothewild.org or 419-684-9539. You can also check out our website at www.backtothewild.org or our Facebook page (which is full of fun stories and beautiful photographs) at www.facebook.com/backtothewildohio.