



# EDUCATION Outreach

Understanding the habits and habitats of wildlife, and taking appropriate measures to prevent unwanted encounters, will help everyone to continue to enjoy the wonderful wild resources that still exist in New Jersey.

While the primary purpose of the Mercer County Wildlife Center is to provide a community resource to handle wildlife questions and concerns, of equal importance are the education opportunities we provide. We believe that education is the key to a peaceful coexistence among the varied inhabitants of our area.

At the Center, we shelter and care for a group of animals with permanent disabilities. Due to their injuries, these animals are not releasable. So, they travel with us to schools, scout meetings, senior centers, and community events throughout the year, acting as ambassadors for their wild counterparts.

Throughout the year, we provide comprehensive education presentations that feature these education animals. We tailor our education presentations to a specific age group or interest.

## Topics covered

- Nocturnal vs. diurnal animals
- Animals that are herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores
- Natural history of each species
- How a species is affected by human development
- When and how to intervene with an animal that may need help
- Any general subjects that are currently of interest, including chemicals, pollution, diseases, habitat destruction, and conservation

## Animals we bring

The education animals that we introduce at our programs include hawks, falcons, owls, corvids, vultures, and various mammals. Our standard 60-minute native wildlife program includes four animals that are selected by the speaker based on the program request, age group, and animals available at that time. We also offer raptor programs, nocturnal animal programs, or themed programs.

Our program speakers are educated and trained to work with our education animals so that the safety of the audience, the animal and the speaker are ensured throughout the presentation. We do not allow the audience to touch the animals, and the animals are under the speaker's control at all times.

## Fees

Fees for a 60-minute native wildlife program vary by location. Please call the center for current pricing. In lieu of the program fees, in-kind donations from MCWC's Wish List may be substituted if they total the applicable program fee. You may request a copy of our Wish List or find it online at our website. On-site programs also available for small groups under 20 participants.

Schedule a program at the Center by calling us at 609-303-0552 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Limited evening and weekend programs are available. Please allow us at least three weeks advance notice of your program request.



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[www.mercercounty.org/parks](http://www.mercercounty.org/parks)

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Dan Benson, County Executive

The Mercer County Wildlife Center is owned by Mercer County and operated by the Mercer County Park Commission with the support and assistance of Wildlife Center Friends. Wildlife Center Friends is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization formed to support the activities of the Mercer County Wildlife Center. • [www.wildlifecenterfriends.org](http://www.wildlifecenterfriends.org)