

Education Chair

General Function

Education of both members and the public on ecology and environmental issues is a major goal of Audubon chapters. The main purpose of the education committee is to generate education programs in schools and in the larger community. The education committee program should be developed as a part of the annual planning process and should include ideas from the board as well as the committee. Because education programs and chapter activities vary widely, the following guidelines may be more useful than listing specific duties.

Under the Sonoran Audubon Society bylaws, each committee and project has assigned to it a Board Liaison Member. This person forms a conduit between the Committee and the Board transmitting information, requests and suggestions. See Job Description for Board Liaison.

Guidelines

- 1) Recruit a team of chapter members to help you design and implement an education program.
- 2) Determine overall **community needs for environmental** awareness and opportunities for the chapter to make a contribution. **Work with the education committee to identify and develop** a project that will best meet the community's needs and fit the talents of the committee. Choose a project that will involve as many chapter members as possible. For example:

Introduce or strengthen environmental education in the school system.

Develop a community-wide educational event around an important local habitat, such as a river or wetland.

Address a pending local issue, such as recycling.

Promote Audubon Adventures in area schools.

Raise money to send a local teacher to an Audubon Ecology workshop.

- 3) Determine the methods and resources the chapter will use and how much time and money are needed to implement the project.
- 4) Lead the education committee in designing a plan for the project.
- 5) Develop criteria for evaluating the project before implementing it.

See the "Education" section in the "Chapter Tool Box" and "Education at Audubon" in the "NAS Programs" section for more information about Audubon's education programs.

Obtain the *Education SourceBook* and other materials from Audubon's education department in the New York office,