



## Arizona Museum for Youth

For Immediate Release  
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# News Release

## ***“Wing It! Things That Fly”* Soars into Arizona Museum for Youth**



Mesa, AZ - Since the beginning of time, man has looked at the skies and seen birds, bats and bugs. Man-made flight has a short history compared to that of nature’s winged creatures. Our ancestors felt envy over these creatures that could do one thing they couldn’t - *Fly!* So, artists have created poems, fables and artwork that express the desire to soar through the clouds and dare to touch the sun. **Wing It! Things That Fly** features artwork that showcases our collective fascination with the creatures, inventions and fantasies that allow us to venture *up, up and away!* *Wing It!* lands at the Arizona Museum for Youth [AMY], **February 10 through May 6, 2012.**

Fantastical creatures from all around the world are said to have wings of all shapes, sizes, colors, and textures. Cultures around the world have stories about magical birds, fire-breathing dragons, winged horses and even tiny winged humans called fairies. In this delightful exhibition, visitors will be able to explore a magical fantasy section to see the beautiful pieces of art that artists have created to represent mystical beasts!

In nature there are many flying creatures. In fact, birds, insects, and even some mammals can fly. The creatures of nature have many different kinds of wings. They can be large or small, fluffy and feathered or transparent and filmy, delicate or tough. Artists have loved to paint, carve, and sculpt winged creatures for centuries because of their beautiful variety. Visitors will also enjoy exploring this section to see what they can learn about natural-winged creatures and how they are represented by artists. You’ll also learn more new facts about bats, bald eagles, and parrots!

This year, AMY is part of the **Arizona SciTech Festival**, in collaboration with **Mesa Takes Flight**, and will serve as a *“Tot Hub”* for the statewide events the weekend of **February 11-12**. AMY will offer a fun, exploratory activity for early learners. Children will be able to explore the fundamentals of aerodynamics as they create and test their own aircraft using a variety of materials.

We invite you and your family to join us in experiencing this grand adventure and visit the Eagles Nook to see live footage of eagles landing and maybe even hatching, build paper airplanes and let them blast off

through amazing rocket launchers, experience an airplane simulator, pretend in Butterfly Puppet Theatre and lounge in a glow-in-the-dark camp ground and more!

For more information, visit us online at [ArizonaMuseumforYouth.com](http://ArizonaMuseumforYouth.com) or call 480.644.2468. See you there!

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## **Exhibition Interactives & Art-Making Activities:**

### **Man-made Flying Objects!**

#### **Flying Over Mesa**

Green Screen technology activity – children will have a choice of dress up (bird wings, capes, and rocket packs) and be able to “perch” on a platform as they watch themselves flying over the City of Mesa on a video screen.

#### **Paper Plane Launcher**

Little ones can choose between two paper plane styles or design their own magnificent creation. Once completed, they can test it in the airplane launcher.

#### **Paper Planes & Rockets**

Fun art-making activity to accompany the airplane launcher.

#### **Airplane Cockpit Simulator**

Children will be able to sit at the controls of an airplane and interact with real airplane, simulator software. They can also make fabulous paper airplanes at the “wing” activity table.

#### **Magnet History Board of Aeronautics Timeline**

Points on the timeline will include: Leonardo Da Vinci’s flying machine, Wright brothers, hot air balloon, blimp, modern aircraft, space travel, helicopter, rocketman, etc.

### **Winged Animals & Insects Found in Nature!**

#### **Black Light Room –Camp Out!**

A focus on flying creatures of the night (bats, owls, fireflies, night hawks, moths) that incorporates night sounds and the calls/sounds that each animal makes; tent activity and camping gear will provide even more adventure.

#### **Bat Origami, Art-making**

Children will create bats out of black paper and decorate them with white/light-colored crayons; they can add straws to give it a bouncing effect and take it into the black light room to enhance their experience.

#### **Bat Cave – Slider Art stop**

It’s a focus on this very misunderstood creature, their impact on the environment and their place in the animal kingdom. This art stop includes sliders on bat myths vs. facts and video.

#### **Measuring Wing Span**

Visitors can measure their arm span and compare it to that of an eagle, hawk, or hummingbird through silhouettes on the walls.

#### **Embossing, Rubbing & Tooling - Art-making**

Use real and/or simulated bird feathers for rubbing activity for younger visitors and tooling on aluminum for older visitors.

### **Butterfly Puppet Theater**

Features lavish puppets that illustrate the metamorphosis of a little caterpillar to a magnificent butterfly; feature story: *"The Very Hungry Caterpillar"* book by Eric Carle.

### **Butterfly & Insect Wings**

Little ones can enjoy tracing butterflies and wings using colorful drawing utensils and fun templates.

### **Eagles Nest Nook**

Enjoy reading and paging through colorful books about *things that fly*. You can also check out the "eagle cam" monitor to watch eagles come and go and maybe even being born!

### **Memory Game Board – Animals of the Rain Forest**

A fun game designed to challenge you to match pairs of rain forest animals and more.

## **Fantasy Winged Creatures**

### **Create Your Own Dragon Activity**

Wings, horns, arms, feet, claws, eyes and tails... oh my!

### **The Phoenix Puzzles & Dragon Collage**

It's art-making at its best!

## **Atrium Outdoor Fun**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (in the case of inclement weather, times may change).

*Special activities are featured each day and are included with paid admission.*

Visitors can check out hummingbird feeders, flowers and other beautiful plants through magnifying glasses and binoculars. They can also engage in outdoor bird sketching, plein air painting, flower prints and more.

### **Daily Drop-in Activities in the Atrium**

Bird-watch, bug-watch and smell the flowers in our newly designed atrium space.

#### **Tuesdays: Yard Art**

Painting inspired by the flowers, birds and colors of nature.

#### **Wednesdays: Once Upon a Garden...**

Special art-making activities using nature's bounty including seeds, leaves, flowers, and other natural materials.

#### **Thursdays: Plein Air Art (Art Outdoors)**

Painting and/or sketching birds, bugs, and beautiful plants.

#### **Fridays: Gardening Pals**

Get your hands dirty in the garden. Plant, weed, touch and smell a variety of plants and flowers. Sketch your favorite flower or a visiting hummingbird.

#### **Saturday: Nature Watch**

Use binoculars and magnifying glasses to get up close and personal with leaves, weeds, grass and flowers. Sit quietly and carefully and you may catch a glimpse of a bug or a hummingbird.

Use colored pencils to draw what you see!

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## **Exhibition Special Events & Workshops:**

*All events and workshops are included with museum admission unless otherwise stated.*

### **Audubon Society Presentation**

Saturday, February 11, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Experience the wonders of Arizona's hummingbirds, how to identify our most common species and how to make your home a great place for hummingbirds to visit!

### **We Love Our Winged Friends**

Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Real helicopter, pilots, parrots, face painting, cookie decorating, storytelling and more!

### **Spring Break Camp**

March 12 – 16, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ignite your creativity, design your own flying creature, build a rocket that will take your imagination on a journey to the stars and discover the intriguing world of bats.

Register for the week or a single day. Note: 48-hour preregistration is required for single day registrants at \$30 a day. Members \$90, Nonmembers \$125

### **Bat Day at AMY**

Saturday, March 24, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Representatives from the Sierra Club and the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. will be on hand to discuss bats and their importance to our ecosystem. We will feature bat related activities and fun!

### **AMY Family Day**

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy kite design, activity and launch! Meet experts from Liberty Wildlife. Next, join in a fun aircraft creation designed by our visitors and YOU!

### **Liberty Wildlife Presentation**

Saturday, April 21, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Learn fun ways we can become stewards of our native wildlife's environments.

### **Phoenix Zoo Presentation**

Saturday, April 28, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Come discover the amazing characteristics and beauty of our winged friends.

## **SPONSORS:**





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## Arizona Museum for Youth

The Arizona Museum for Youth (AMY) is a fine arts museum for children and families and serves as a terrific place to introduce life-changing art. The museum hosts several world-class exhibitions, annually, and features *ArtVille*, a special art township for kids under 4 years of age and *ArtZone* for kids 5 and older. As part of the exhibitions, a dynamic array of art classes, fun workshops and family programs are available to teach basic art principles and techniques as they relate to the current exhibition. Call 480.644.2468 or visit us online at [ArizonaMuseumforYouth.com](http://ArizonaMuseumforYouth.com).

*"Inspiring children of all ages to experience their world differently through art, creativity and imagination."*