



LIVING WITH THE LANDSCAPE APPLICATION 2026-2027

Hawks Aloft, Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Albuquerque, New Mexico that works to conserve indigenous wild birds and their habitats through avian research, conservation education, raptor rescue, as well as cooperation with other organizations.

Living with the Landscape is a year-long fully grant-funded program that teaches the importance of conserving the environment and wildlife, with a particular focus on birds of prey. This program provides a unique opportunity for students to engage in hands-on activities. If your school is interested in participating in this program for the 2026-2027 school year, please fill out the following application and return it by **May 1, 2026** to:

Heather Rissi, Education Coordinator, email: heather@hawksaloft.org

Our Living with the Landscape program engages with every member of your school: from the students to the staff to the parents. The breakdown of our visits is as follows:

Grades K-3: Two classroom visits featuring two live raptors and activities teaching raptor adaptations, migrations, and protection of endangered species. (Topics adapted to each grade level)

Grade 4: Three class visits featuring live raptors teaching raptor adaptations and migration, watershed health, habitat fragmentation, and bioaccumulation.

Grade 5: Same programs as the fourth grade, but in addition, the fifth grade will also implement a conservation project to maintain throughout the school year. They also receive one science-based field trip to a wilderness area, focusing on New Mexico wildlife and ecology

Conservation Project: The fifth-grade students will be transformed into environmental stewards through a conservation project carried out in their school or community. Projects will be designed around the themes based on school location, layout, and community needs.

Community Night: Offered virtually or in-person, schools participating in Living with the Landscape are given the opportunity to schedule an after-school night with Hawks Aloft. In the past, the most successful community nights coincide with days that families are already present at the school, such as an open house night, or a festival night.

Living with the Landscape Application 2026-2027

You are applying for Living with the Landscape, a grant-funded program offered to Title 1 Albuquerque elementary schools at no cost. This application is for the 2026-2027 school year. Please return this application via email by **May 1, 2026** to:

Heather Rissi, Education Coordinator, email: heather@hawksaloft.org

Name of School:

Full Address:

School Office Phone Number:

Principal:

Principal Email:

*Primary Contact:

Position:

Primary Email:

Phone Number:

**Primary Contact should be a teacher or staff that can exchange emails with Hawks Aloft, meet for scheduling, and inform the teachers about their program dates and times.*

Number of Classes in Grade K:

Number of Classes in Grade 1:

Number of Classes in Grade 2:

Number of Classes in Grade 3:

Number of Classes in Grade 4:

Number of Classes in Grade 5:

Total Number of Students:

*****For students to participate in Hawks Aloft programming, they need a Hawks Aloft permission slip signed by a parent or guardian, as well as a completed photo form. These will be sent out at the beginning of the school year. The slips will also ask if students can see owls. Teachers are responsible for knowing which students cannot be photographed or cannot see owls (we may still bring owls, and the student(s) who cannot see them must step out for 10 minutes and then return for the rest of the program).*****

1. Please describe any special environmental programs your school has (i.e. Nature Club, Garden Club, Science Club, Green Team). Please indicate the approximate number of students participating.

2. How would Hawks Aloft programs aid in your teaching?

3. Scheduling the Hawks Aloft program visits with each grade level can be challenging. Will the primary contact person be readily available to communicate via email with the Hawks Aloft staff and pass the message along to the teachers promptly?

Yes

No



4. Our birds require a confined location where students come to us. This minimizes moving the birds and allows us to set up for each program in a quiet location with limited distractions. In the past, we used the library, an empty classroom or portable, or even conference rooms; places such as the cafeteria, common areas, or school hallways are NOT appropriate for the programs. The rooms should be available throughout the day of the program (which we will schedule before programming begins). Please describe where Hawks Aloft can conduct programs at your school.

5. We also have outdoor activities as part of our programs. Is there a space outside where the students can run around that is close to the indoor area mentioned above?

6. Has your school participated in Living with the Landscape Before? If so, when?

7. Why do you think your school should be selected for Living with the Landscape?

