

Taking Wing Professional Development Program

Program Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

Taking Wing provides teachers with up to 40 hours of professional development to teach STEM and other core subjects through the study of birds, their lives, and their conservation. The program is intended to extend science and conservation principles in meaningful ways beyond the classroom--to families and the community.

The program immerses teachers in bird-related experiences and research coupled with active demonstrations of how to successfully engage students in inquiry science and meaningful outdoor learning experiences. The program includes a 3-day, 2-night residential summer workshop at an important birding area in Georgia, followed by two 1-day workshops in fall and spring.

As a participant in this program, you will increase your students' content knowledge about birds, their understanding of the scientific process as it applies to birds, and their awareness of community science projects that link students to scientific endeavors. You will use technology and curriculum resources to investigate birds and will learn how to build these into your lessons.

Questions? Please contact: Melanie Furr, Director of Education, melanie.furr@birdsgeorgia.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible for this program?

Any formal or informal educator is eligible to apply to the Taking Wing Program. While the content aligns most readily with STEM courses, teachers from many different disciplines (including language arts, art, and special education) have attended and successfully implemented the training.

Spaces are limited, and preference will be given to teachers from Title I or other under-resourced schools, as well as teachers who apply as a team. Georgia Audubon plans to offer this program in different parts of the state each summer and seeks to attract teachers from many different counties.

What is expected of me as a participant?

- Attend and fully participate in all workshops and activities (summer, fall and spring meetings).
- Fully participate in pre- and post-program evaluations.
- Develop and teach at least two lessons based on information and experiences related to the workshop. Report on student engagement and learning related to these lessons at the final meeting.

What is the schedule for the training?

We'll have long, but fun days combining birding and outdoor exploration with classroom instruction. The workshop begins at 12:30 PM on day one and concludes at 3:00 PM on day three. Day two will begin at 7:30 AM and conclude with an after-dinner activity. Class sessions will take place in a conference room with plenty of space for each participant.

Which cohort should I apply for?

Teachers should apply for the cohort closest to where they live. While the summer workshop includes overnight accommodations, teachers need to be able to travel to the one-day workshops in fall in spring. Attending the workshop closer to your school will also provide you with more relevant practice identifying birds where you teach.

What is the cost of the workshop?

The workshop is free to attend. Lodging (shared room) and meals are provided. Curriculum materials, field guides, classroom resources, and binoculars will be provided. Travel expenses are not covered.