

Conservation education helps people understand and appreciate the world around them, which is essential to address today's environmental issues. Such education provides opportunities to promote the appreciation, knowledge, and conservation of nature. It also helps individuals understand the effects of their decisions on the environment and enables them to be better informed, engaged citizens. Conservation education boosts the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. For youth, conservation education improves student achievement, supports STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), improves critical and creative thinking skills, and helps meet learning standards. It helps youth become future stewards of natural resources, which will result in the conservation of resources for future generations. For people of all ages and from all walks of life, conservation education can lead to more engagement with and advocacy for the wildlife and habitats upon which it depends.



Montana Audubon advocates for and encourages high quality conservation education. We lead by example with hands-on, place-based programs for Billings and the surrounding communities, hosted out of our Montana Audubon Center. Using this successful model, we can build a vision for expanding conservation education throughout Montana.

The policy of Montana Audubon regarding Conservation Education is to:

- Educate the public and decision makers about the importance of scientific literacy
- Encourage and advocate for the environmental and scientific literacy of all Montanans
- Recognize the importance of connecting individuals, especially youth, with the natural world
- Encourage access to the outdoors and conservation education for all, regardless of age or social group
- Support equity, diversity, and inclusion in conservation education programming
- Encourage collaboration between Montana Audubon and other like-minded conservation and education organizations across the state and country to share knowledge, strategies, techniques, and best practices in conservation education
- Recognize that an environmentally literate citizenry is essential to furthering the goal of environmental sustainability
- Advocate for funding and programs that support conservation education programs in alignment with the mission and goals of Montana Audubon
- Advocate for the inclusion of standards-based conservation education in schools in Montana and across the country