



**Willow Bend**  
*environmental education center*

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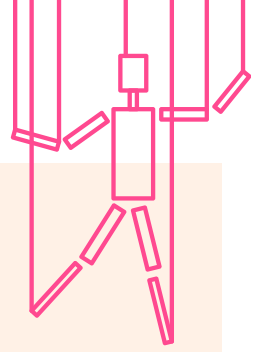
# **YOUTH SCRIPT & PUPPET DESIGN COMPETITION**

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**PUPPET DESIGN CATEGORY**

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## Introduction to "Nature Tales" Project and Puppet Design Contest

Willow Bend Environmental Education Center is excited to have been awarded a Creative Flagstaff's ArtX Grant! This has paved the way for our participation in the inaugural 2024 ARTx Art + Ideas Experience Arizona festival, a celebration of immersive arts set to enchant our community from May 17th to May 26th in Flagstaff.

As part of this artistic endeavor, we are thrilled to unveil our captivating project, "Nature Tales". This initiative goes beyond traditional storytelling, weaving together enchanting puppetry and immersive wildlife exploration to bring the wonders of the natural world to life.

"Nature Tales" promises an extraordinary journey into the heart of nature through interactive performances and engaging activities designed for the entire family.

### **The Puppet Design Contest: Unleash Your Imagination!**

As a pivotal component of the "Nature Tales" project, we invite the creative youth minds of our community, to participate in the "Nature Tales: Puppetry Competition". This contest is an opportunity for budding artists and storytellers to showcase their talents in puppet design.

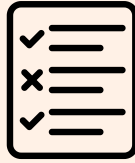
Participants aged 5-18 (judged by age group) are encouraged to let their imaginations soar as they design puppets inspired by the rich tapestry of nature. Whether crafting a whimsical creature from the depths of the forest or a majestic Arizona wildlife character, each design will play a vital role in bringing our puppetry performances to life.

We invite you to explore the guidelines for the Puppet Design Contest, where creativity, craftsmanship, and alignment with the nature theme are celebrated. Your designs, though existing on paper, will transcend into the realm of performance during the ARTx week in May, enchanting audiences and leaving a lasting impression.

# OBJECTIVE: SHOWCASE YOUR CREATIVITY WITH NATURE INSPIRED PUPPET DESIGN.

# PUPPET DESIGN COMPETITION

## AGES 5-11



### Guidelines

- Align with "Nature Tales" theme
- Creativity: Original and imaginative design
- Puppet Operation: Specify the type of puppet operation (e.g., hand puppet, marionette)
- Clarity: Clear presentation of the puppet design
- Feasibility: Consider practicality and potential for performance
- Design Limit: Limited to one design
- Animal Designs: Based on a real, local-to-Arizona animal
- Paper Size: Design must be on paper no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches

**\*Note: you do NOT need to physically create your design, we are only expecting a 2D rendition**

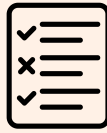


### Judging Criteria

- Creativity: Original and imaginative design
- Craftsmanship: Quality of construction materials listed
- Clarity: Clear presentation of the puppet design
- Feasibility: Consideration of practicality for puppet performance
- Alignment with Nature Theme: Relevance to the "Nature Tales" theme

# PUPPET DESIGN COMPETITION

## AGES 12-18



### Guidelines

- Align with "Nature Tales" theme
- Creativity and Innovation: Innovative and unique design
- Puppet Operation: Specify the type of puppet operation (e.g., hand puppet, marionette)
- Aesthetic Appeal: Visually appealing with attention to detail
- Functionality: Consider practicality and potential for performance
- Design Limit: Limited to one design If an animal Designs: Based on a real, local-to-Arizona animal
- Paper Size: Design must be on paper no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches

**Note: you do NOT need to physically create your design, we are only expecting a 2D rendition**



### Judging Criteria

- Creativity: Innovative and unique design
- Technical Skill: Complexity and skill demonstrated in the design
- Aesthetic Appeal: Visual attractiveness with attention to detail
- Functionality: Consideration of practicality and potential for performance
- Thought Out Construction: Well-planned and considered construction
- Alignment with Nature Theme: Relevance to the "Nature Tales" theme



## PRIZES (PER AGE GROUP)

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**1st Place:** \$50 Bookmans Gift Certificate, along with the Willow Bend team making your puppet design come to life and having it featured in our shows during ArtX week in May!

**Runner-up:** \$25 Bookmans Gift Certificate, along with your puppet displayed at the Flagstaff library.



# PARTICIPATION CHECKLIST:

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- Attend our Youth Script & Puppet Design Workshop on January 20th (Optional) at the Flagstaff Downtown Library
- Ensure your puppet design is inspired by nature for the “Nature Tales” theme. Consider local Arizona plants or animals for your design. Be creative and original in your design.
- Present your puppet design clearly on paper (no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches). Ensure your design aligns with the nature theme. If designing an animal puppet, make sure it’s based on a real, local-to-Arizona animal.
- Submit your entries by 5:00 PM on February 21st, 2024. Check and double-check that all required materials are included.