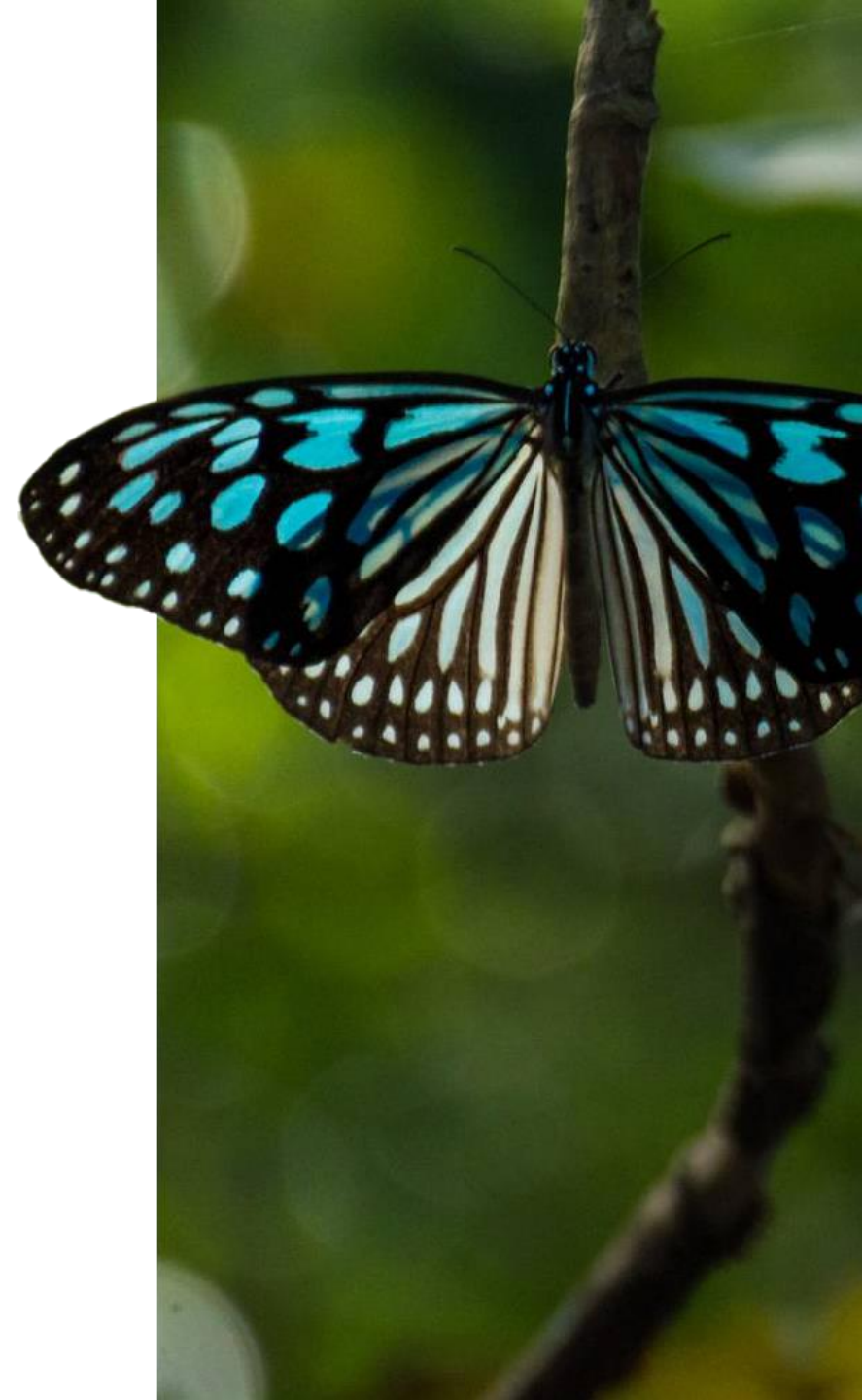


THE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP PROJECT

*Inspiring Tomorrows Environmental Leaders.
Today.*

*We acknowledge that the Talking Talons Youth Leadership office and Thrift Store
are located on the ancestral lands of the Tigua (Tiwa) & Pueblos peoples.*



Talking Talons Youth Leadership



Our History:

- **1988:** Founded by Wendy Crouch Aeschliman, school nurse at Roosevelt Middle School.
- **1990-1999:** the program received numerous state and national awards for their 24 week program
- **2000:** the Talking Talons Thrift Store opened
- **2001:** the first Youth Conservation Corps team began
- **2006:** Talking Talons was awarded "Model Program" status through the National Registry of Evidenced-based Programs & Practices.
- **2011-2021:** worked with numerous local, state and federal organizations to provide a wide range of environmental education opportunities to thousands of children and adults





Designing *The Project*

- **2022: Winter/Spring**
- **Who are We:** the Talking Talons Board of Directors authorized their interim Executive Director to explore with their Partners: *what is the Talking Talons niche within the Environmental Education sector*
- **Partner Interviews:** interim ED interviewed representatives from: *Bernalillo County Open Space, City of Albuquerque Open Space, CIUDAD Soil & Water Conservation District, Environmental Education of New Mexico, Hawks Aloft, Nature Conservancy Urban Tree Program, Nature Matters Academy, Nature Ninos (NM Wildlife Federation), NM EMNRD YCC, Sandia Mountain Natural History Center, USFS - Recreation and Wild Friends of New Mexico*
- **Primary Partner Feedback:** Talking Talons reputation was stellar. Focus on Outdoor Education, Youth Leadership was a constant theme, Job Training for careers in Environmental & Natural Resource sectors, YCC focus on the Tijeras Canyon/East Mountains and Middle & High School environmental education is a wide-open niche
- **April 2022 Talking Talons Board decision:** build a Longitudinal Program Model for 5th grade-High School students to find, support and mentor young leaders who will engage in the fight against Climate Change. Let's find the Central New Mexico Greta Thunbergs and help them succeed. Let's make real the Talking Talons tagline

Inspiring Tomorrow's Environmental Leaders. Today.

The Climate Leadership Project

5th Grade through High School



THE PLAN: *MANZANO CLUSTER*

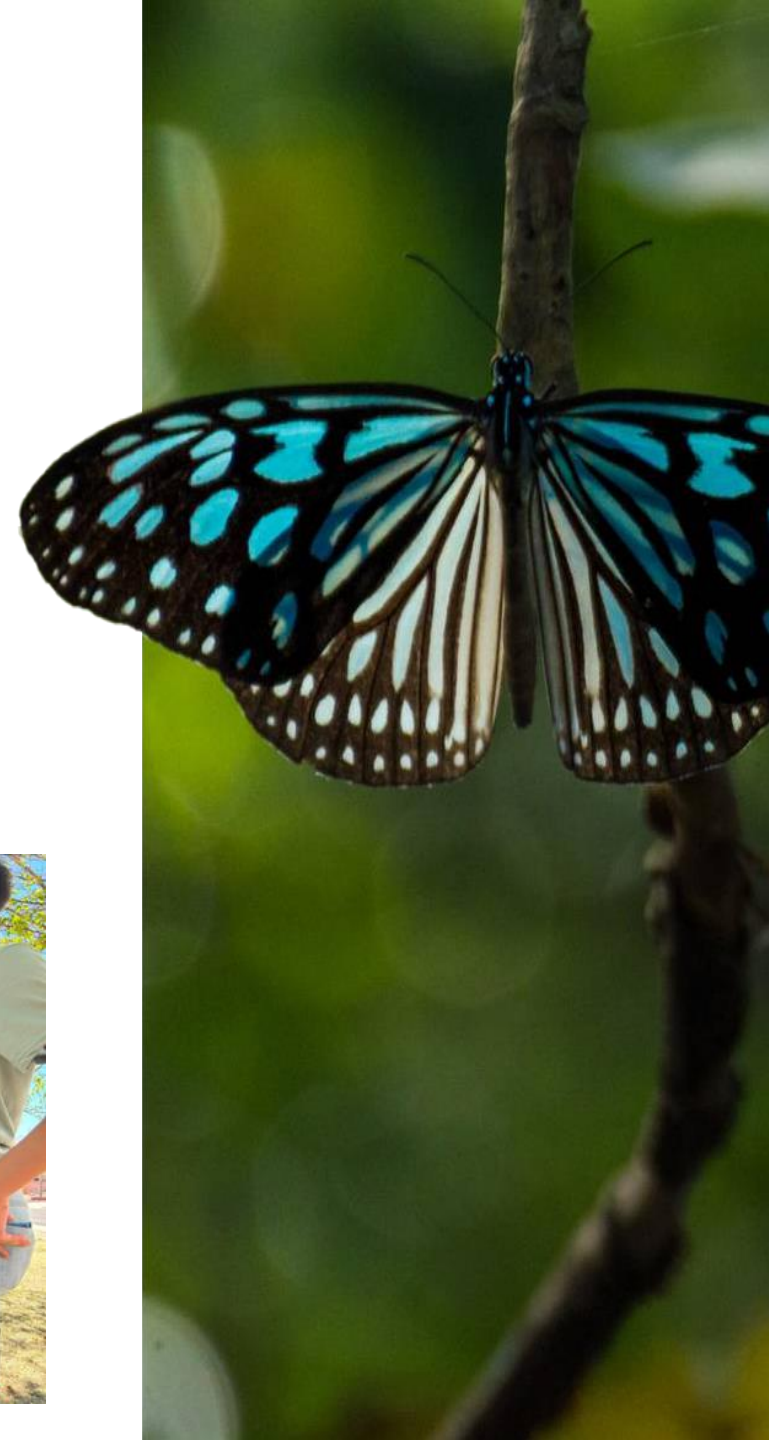
- San Antonito and A. Montoya Elementary feed Roosevelt Middle
- Apache, Tomasita and McCollum Elementary feed Kennedy Middle
- Chelwood and Collett Park Elementary feed Jackson Middle
- Roosevelt, Kennedy and Jackson Middle feed Manzano High

2023-2024: *A. Montoya, Apache, San Antonito Elementary Schools. Kennedy and Roosevelt Middle Schools.*

2024-2025: *Add Chelwood and Tomasita Elementary Schools.*

2025-2026: *Add McCollum and Collett Park Elementary Schools and Jackson Middle School*

2026-2027: *Add Manzano High School*



Coyote Clubs

5th Grade

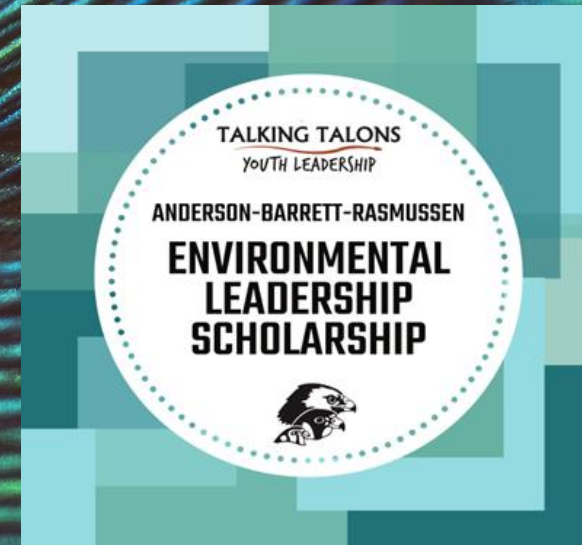
The Program:

- Twice Monthly Afterschool Club Meetings during school year
- Two Environmental Educator staff
- Small Group size
- Between-session Enrichment Activities: *Environmental Investigators*
- End-of-Year Environmental projects

Focus on:

- Connecting with Nature
- Team-Building
- Leadership
- Climate Action
- Exploring each students' Environmental focus

Summer Program: transition students to Middle School in 2 one-week camps





Environmental Leader Teams *Middle School*

The Program:

- Twice Monthly Afterschool Team Meetings during school year
- Two Environmental Educator staff
- Small Group size
- End-of-Year Environmental Projects
- Incorporating Community Partners

Focus on:

- Embracing their School Community through Climate Action
 - Deepening each students' Environmental focus
 - Specific Leadership development
 - Ongoing Team-Building
-

Climate Action Teams

High School



Climate Action:

- Developing individual or team projects to address Climate Challenges in the community
- Networking with other youth leaders focusing on Climate Challenges
- Developing and implementing Climate advocacy strategies

Career Prep:

- Connecting with adult mentors to guide them along their preferred career track
- Receiving scholarships and/or stipends to provide them with real-life learning opportunities
- Working with the Youth Conservation Corps

Mentorship:

- Providing mentoring opportunities to the Middle School program participants
 - Serving as Coyote Club and Summer Program staff
 - Public speaking about Climate Challenges
-

Youth Conservation Corps

Enhancing Tijeras Canyon & East Mountains

- **Workforce Development:** a key component in *The Climate Leadership Project*. Hiring High School students to gain outdoor work experience
- **YCC crews have:** restored a temporary visitor's center, removed invasive plant species, built and rehabilitated numerous East Mountain and Tijeras Creek trails, and maintained and reseeded an existing bird banding trail
- **Partners have included:** Friends of the Sandia Mountains (FOSM), the Village of Tijeras, Bernalillo County Open Space, US Forest Service, Tijeras Creek Remediation Project, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation



What Can You Do?

At Home:

- **Encourage your child to get outdoors and explore their neighborhood**
- **Partner with your child to explore websites, videos and movies about Nature: the Oceans, Forests, Animals, Climate, etc.**
- **Support your child when they express interest in Climate issues and possible career choices**

In the Community:

- **Take a hike. Explore New Mexico Parks and Open Spaces**
- **Go to the zoo, museums, other community activities that speak to your child's Climate interests.**
- **Volunteer to be part of Community Events.**
- **Consider joining Talking Talons Parent Club.**



contact info

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