



ARROYO CLASSROOM 2024-2025

LOCAL WILDLIFE, HABITAT & ARROYO EDUCATION

Executive Summary

During the 2024-2025 school year, Arroyo Classroom served **757 3rd grade students** and **36 teachers** across **7 schools** in Rio Rancho, 5 of which were Title I schools. Each student engaged in 4.5 hours of programming provided by Ciudad SWCD staff and contractors. SSCAFCA committed to a total of \$32,340.00 in cash for program coordination and delivery and a contract with Hawks Aloft Inc. for live wildlife presentations. Within the curriculum, all 757 students engaged with grade level appropriate lessons that covered the following required MS4 topics:



757
Students total

MS4 TOPICS



- PET WASTE MANAGEMENT
- PROPER DISPOSAL OF OIL, HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
- PROPER DISPOSAL OF PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES AND FERTILIZERS
- IMPAIRED WATERS IN THE CITY/STATE
- WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



4 activities per classroom, 140 presentations



Arroyo Walk & Build A Watershed

To increase student time outside exploring the arroyo, the field trip was extended this year to 2.5 hours and combined the arroyo habitat and adaptation lessons with a new “Build A Watershed” activity. This newer lesson has students construct the Sandias, Rio Grande and West Mesa in the sand and see what happens when it rains and when pollution is present.



Local Birds, & Reptiles and Arthropods.

Hawks Aloft Incorporated continued their visits to schools with live educational birds this year. These presentations allow students to see wild life up close while learning about each birds story. Ciudad staff, Theresa Aragon, continued to bring turtles and her arthropod collection to teach about who our wildlife neighbors are, even if we can't always see them.





ARROYO CLASSROOM 2024-2025

EVALUATION

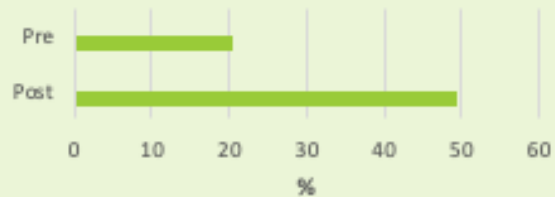
- The Arroyo Classroom program promotes safety and awareness of natural arroyos. As part of the educational standards, Ciudad SWCD educates students about habitats around their schools and neighborhoods and the animals that make their homes in arroyos. Students learn that simple activities can have a direct impact on arroyo health and water quality.
- The following is an overview of the evaluation of the Arroyo Classroom in the 2024-2025 school year. There were 582 student responses to the pre-survey from seven schools and 588 responses to the post-survey. 20 teachers responded to the feedback survey.
- We wanted to understand if there was a positive change in knowledge about arroyo health and safety, watersheds, and deserts. We were curious to learn about students' attitudes about nature. Finally, we wanted to hear how teachers felt the program met their objectives in the classroom.
- A full copy of the survey data is available on request.

Overview of Survey Findings

- ❖ After participating in the Arroyo Classroom activities, there was an increase in participant knowledge about arroyos, watersheds, and deserts.
- ❖ Students indicated positive feelings about nature and the environment, including indicating an interest in learning about plants and animals.
- ❖ Teachers were overwhelmingly positive about the program, and they all indicated they would want to participate again.

Students' Watershed Knowledge

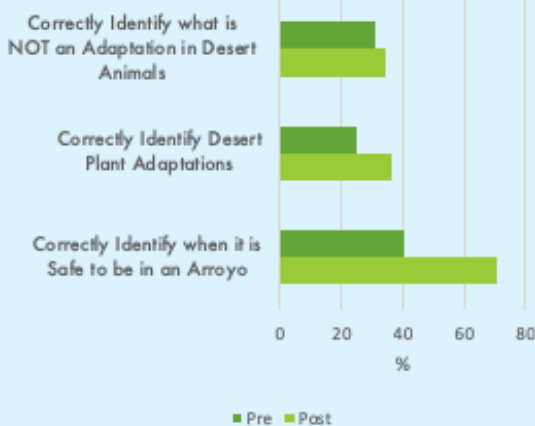
Percentage of Students who could Correctly Define a Watershed



- ❖ The number of students who could correctly identify a watershed increased from 20.6% to 49.3%.

Students' Arroyo and Desert Knowledge:

Percentage of Students who could...



Percentage of Students who could correctly identify different ways of keeping arroyos clean



- ❖ There was an increase in knowledge across topics and questions related to arroyo health



EVALUATION

Students' Reflections on their Connection to Nature (Post-Survey)



❖ Students report having a positive connection to the natural world and environment

What teachers had to say...

- “Students learned more about their local communities and how to help out. They are more aware of their surroundings and how to preserve nearby areas.”
- “The kids loved getting to know more about the environment they live in and being outdoors.”
- “For the students to be able to understand and appreciate our unique and natural environment. We were able to refer back to the lesson during future science lessons and social studies about explorers and native peoples in this area.”

All of the teachers who participated in the 2024-2025 school year have indicated they want to participate again in the coming year.

Teachers share why they participated

