

LOW COST | OUTSIDE PRESENTER | STEM

ASK ME ABOUT: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

AGES

Adults

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A library take on the popular Reddit AMA* (Ask Me Anything), this is a chance for participants to ask their burning questions of local animal conservationists (or any animal experts). Host one expert to give a presentation with a Q&A, or host a panel moderated by library staff or a community volunteer. For a passive component, make a comment box for patrons to submit questions beforehand. Adapt to your patrons' interests and available time/space. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes

*Note: AMA is trademarked, so the program must be named something else.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

If holding an in-person event, you will need:

- Laptop and AV equipment
- Chairs
- A recording device on a tripod (optional)

Prepare backup questions before the program, especially if a staff member will be moderating the panel discussion.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

To find a presenter who matches patron interest, consider:

- Scientists from parks, zoos, aquariums, or conservation districts
- Game wardens
- Veterinarians or vet techs
- Shelter employees
- Homesteading experts

RESOURCES

On Hosting Panels

How to Host a Panel Discussion (Toastmasters): <https://bit.ly/3bJDq7R>

Powerful Panels: A Step-By-Step Guide... (2013) by Kristin Arnold

ADAPTATION:

To reach homebound patrons (or those who cannot make it), stream the event on Facebook Live. Anyone who watches in real time can ask questions through the comment function.

ADAPTATION:

For teens, add a career day or volunteer spin, and have the experts talk primarily about their jobs and how they got into them.

TIP:

For a similar children's idea, see Chapter 03: Skype a Scientist.

Adult Nonfiction

The Ark and Beyond: The Evolution of Zoo and Aquarium Conservation (2018) by Ben A. Minter

The Ghosts of Gombe: A True Story of Love and Death in an African Wilderness (2018) by Dale Peterson

The Last Elephants (2019) by Don Pinnock

Lessons from the Lobster: Eve Marder's Work in Neuroscience (2018) by Charlotte Nassim

The New Chimpanzee: A Twenty-First-Century Portrait of Our Closest Kin (2018) by Craig B. Stanford

The Photo Ark Vanishing: The World's Most Vulnerable Animals (2019) by Joel Sartore and Elizabeth Kolbert

Spying on Whales: The Past, Present, and Future of Earth's Most Awesome Creatures (2018) by Nick Pyenson

The Truth About Animals: Stoned Sloths, Lovelorn Hippos, and Other Tales from the Wild Side of Wildlife (2018) by Lucy Cooke

Wildlife of the World (2015) by Don E. Wilson

Wildlife Spectacles: Mass Migrations, Mating Rituals, and Other Fascinating Animal Behaviors (2016) by Vladimir Dinets

Zoology: Inside the Secret World of Animals (2019) DK and Smithsonian Institution.

TIP:

For more books about animal scientists for adults, see Chapter 03: Who Helped Me?