



BLUEBIRDS ACROSS NEBRASKA

TAK-ALONG PROJECT

(Take A Kid Along)

It hasn't been long ago that the bluebird population was in trouble. Because of the efforts of the members of Bluebirds Across Nebraska, bluebirds are once again thriving in Nebraska. We need to remain vigilant however. Without the continued help from people, bluebirds may not survive.

As members of a conservation group, we should pass on to the children in our lives a respect for nature. By becoming a participant in the TAK-Along Project, you will be passing on a legacy of love for bluebirds and nature in general.

Participants in the TAK-Along Project must be members of Bluebirds Across Nebraska and are required to take the following pledge:

I pledge to take a child (son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor's or friend's child, etc.) along with me to monitor my bluebird trail as often as possible during the nesting season. I promise to explain to this child the importance and value of monitoring a bluebird trail. I will plant a seed of love for bluebirds and nature in this child's mind and nurture that seed in the hopes that this child will someday follow in my footsteps.

It is hoped that you and your child will want to continue monitoring your trail together in future years. We will ask that you fill out a registration form each year that you wish to participate with your child. The registration form will appear in the spring BANners.

For a fee of \$10.00 (plus \$6.00 for postage), your child will receive the following:

(It is not necessary to purchase these items to participate in the TAK-Along Project but it is suggested to make the activity more successful.)

- Bluebird Rescue (A child's book on bluebirds)
- The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of Eastern North America
- Spiral notebook to keep trail records
- Pen to record notes
- Fanny pack to carry trail supplies

At the end of the bluebird nesting season, your feedback is requested.

Please send an account of your TAK-Along activities. This could be in the form of a story (written either by you or your child), a photo, or a drawing your child has created. These items should be mailed to BAN, P.O. Box 67157, Lincoln, NE 68506-7157 or e-mailed to info@bbne.org. Many of these accounts will be featured in future BANners. Anyone sending a report on their TAK-Along fun will have their child's name entered in a drawing for a pair of children's binoculars.

Suggestions for a fun and successful teaching opportunity:

As you are Taking A Kid Along tell them the story of bluebirds. Explain to your child how important humans are in the lives of bluebirds. Answer their questions but don't try to teach them everything about bluebirds in one outing. This is one reason it is a good idea to be able to Take A Kid Along several times during the nesting season.

If your bluebird trail has many nesting boxes, consider Taking A Kid Along on just part of your trail. If the child is very young, it might be a good idea to let the child take "ownership" of one or two boxes that have been successful for you in the past. They could keep records on just those boxes so that the whole process would not become overwhelming to them.

Take A Kid Along when you have plenty of time. Children can move at a slower pace than adults. They like to stop and look at every little thing they find. Encourage this natural wonder in your child by talking to them about the treasures they find.

When you Take A Kid Along, don't limit yourself to just bluebirds. Point out to the child the different things in nature that are all around them. Most children love bugs, birds, frogs and fish. They are curious about the buds, flowers, leaves, berries, and nuts that are on plants, trees and shrubs. Take the opportunity to help them develop a love for all things in nature.

The most important thing is to have fun with your child. Having a good experience will encourage your child to want to go again. For the sake of our beloved bluebirds, we need our children to carry on for us when we are no longer able.

E-mail any questions you may have regarding the TAK-Along Project to info@bbne.org or call Sandy Seibert at 402-334-8691.



Use a separate application form for each child you wish to register.



TAK-ALONG PROJECT APPLICATION

BAN Member _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Child's Name _____ Age _____

_____ Yes, I would like to purchase the TAK-Along supplies. I am enclosing \$10.00. (Please add \$6.00 if these items are being mailed to you.)

_____ No, I do not wish to purchase the supplies.

Mail to: **BLUEBIRDS ACROSS NEBRASKA**
P.O. BOX 67157
LINCOLN NE 68506-7157