



# Bat CHAMPION EXPLORER DAY: SAVE THE BATS

by Paula Rodríguez de la Vega, October 2019

## **Empower kids to save the bats by taking action.**

**Target audience:** 5 to 12 years old Nature Kids BC members and their families.

Bat Conservation International (<http://www.batcon.org>) has organized Bat Week (<https://www.batweek.org>), an international, annual celebration designed to raise awareness about the need for bat conservation. This occurs annually during the last week of October (i.e. October 24-31, 2019). Check out their website for amazing ideas. Just be aware that they focus on all the bat species of the world (over 1,300 species), not just our 16 BC species.

For schools looking for curriculum ideas, Bats Live (<https://batslive.pwnet.org>) has excellent resources. They are based in the USA and have content that covers mostly bats species of the USA but also cover International bats.

The BC Bat Action Team encourages us to prioritize the following messaging to increase impact of bat education and outreach.

- Bats are interesting
- Bats are important
- Bats are threatened
- You can help bats

## **The most important actions to help BC bats are:**

1. Consider living with bats in your buildings (<https://bcbats.ca/images/Living-with-Bats-FINAL.pdf>), when safe to do so.
2. Make your community a Bat-friendly Community (<https://bcbats.ca/index.php/get-involved/bat-friendly-communities>).

### 3. Protect and restore natural bat habitats

(<https://bcbats.ca/index.php/get-involved/create-and-enhance-habitat>).

**Be a Bat Champion! Help raise awareness about the importance of bats.**

**Organize an Explorer Day. Bat Week, October 24-31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

Here are some ideas:

- If you haven't already done so, hold a Bat Buddy Explorer Day ([https://www.naturekidsbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/3\\_MeetTheBats\\_draft5\\_forPaula.pdf](https://www.naturekidsbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/3_MeetTheBats_draft5_forPaula.pdf)) to introduce your club to bats.
- Make bat posters and have the NatureKids take them to school or to local library, shopping mall, or city hall. They can ask permission to see if they could put up their poster. Posters could include:
  - 'Save the Bats'
  - Drawing of a bat
  - 3 points on why bats are important
  - 3 points about why bats are interesting
  - 3 points about why bats are in trouble
  - "Leave bats alone." "Never touch a bat."
- Visit a bat maternity roost in a building if there is one near you. See Living with Bats (<https://bcbats.ca/images/Living-with-Bats-FINAL.pdf>). Write a letter to city council to encourage city to support and encourage bats that live in buildings when it is safe to do so.
- Write a letter to your city council. Explain why bats are important. Ask them to consider becoming a Bat-friendly Community. Include the link to the document 'Bat Friendly Communities' (<https://bcbats.ca/index.php/get-involved/bat-friendly-communities>)
- Organize a bat education table at a farmer's market or a shopping mall. Encourage NatureKids to make the poster. Sell bat-shaped cookies or have an arts table for kids ([https://batweek.org/wp-content/uploads/UPDATED-bat\\_week\\_wrapper.pdf](https://batweek.org/wp-content/uploads/UPDATED-bat_week_wrapper.pdf))

- Cook and eat! Organize a Celebrating Bats Pot-luck with goodies and treats made from bat-dependent ingredients.  
<https://batweek.org/wp-content/uploads/BatCelebrationCookBook-UPD-ATED2018.pdf>
- Go outside! Even small adventures in nature help everyone appreciate the natural plants and animals that surround us. By late October, most BC bats have arrived at their winter hibernacula, but not all. If it's a warm evening, don't forget to get everyone outside at sunset and after dark and watch for bats!
- Join a stream clean up or invasive plant pull or organize your own. Municipal, regional or provincial Parks need your help to battle invasive plants and to keep habitats clean and green.
- Contact your local nature centre or museum and see if they are doing anything for Bat Week.
- Make a comic strip or have fun putting on a play. Activities such as those listed in the Bat Brigade Comic Book are fun  
(<https://batweek.org/wp-content/uploads/bat-brigade-web-final.pdf>)