



## **Youth Advocates: Animal Future Movement (AFM)**

*Do you love animals?*

*Do you want to see Colorado's animals protected by law?*

*Did you know you can make a difference in animals' lives?*

Become part of a group of young people who share a common interest and passion for animals and helping their community!

CAP's **Animal Future Movement** (AFM) is a community service driven program that helps youth animal advocates gain knowledge, leadership skills, build responsibility, and develop new friendships all while making an impact in the lives of animals.

You will learn how your government works to protect animals, how to be part of the process, and the importance of your own impact on the society you live in.

### **How?**

- Join us at **Colorado Animal Protectors** and help us educate other young people in Colorado on how to protect pets, farm animals, wildlife, birds, and all critters who reside in our state.
- Through legislation at our State Capitol together we can help make laws that create a safer state for all our residents--human and animal.
- We can teach you how to take action with others who feel like you do, and together we can craft new ways to respect our fellow creatures.
- No matter what your age, where you live, or what you do, if you love animals you can help!

### **What is an Advocate?**

- A person who pleads the cause of another
- A person who defends or maintains a cause or proposal
- A person who supports or promotes the interests of a cause or group

## **What is a Bill?**

- A **bill** is proposed legislation under consideration by a legislature.
- A bill does not become law until it is passed by the legislature and in most cases, approved by the executive.
- Once a bill has been enacted into law, it is called an *act of the legislature*, or a *statute*.
- Bills are introduced in the legislature and are discussed, debated and voted upon.
- Legislatures give bills numbers as they progress.
- All bills originating in the House of Representatives begin with "H.R."
- All bills originating from the Senate begin with an "S."

## **What is a Legislature?**

- A deliberative body of elected people who are empowered to make, change, or repeal the laws of a country or state.
- The branch of government having the power to make laws, as distinguished from the executive and judicial branches of government.

## **What is a Legislator?**

- A person who is elected and empowered by his or her constituency (people who live in a distinct district) are empowered to try to make, change, or repeal the laws of a country or state.
- Legislators are independent individuals, and are different from the members of the executive and the judiciary.

## **What is the Executive branch of government?**

- The executive in the state is the Governor. The executive of the country is the President.
- His or her advisors and various departments and agencies are responsible for enforcing the laws of the land.

## **What is the Judicial branch of government?**

- The judicial branch consists of the state Supreme Court.
- The highest court in the state judiciary of a U.S. state. On matters of state law, the judgment of a state Supreme Court is considered final and binding in both state and federal courts.

## **What is a Lobbyist?**

- A professional advocate that works to influence political decisions on behalf of individuals and organizations.
- This advocacy could lead to the proposal of new legislation, or the amendment of existing laws and regulations.
- A lobbyist is prohibited from paying a politician to secure his or her vote.

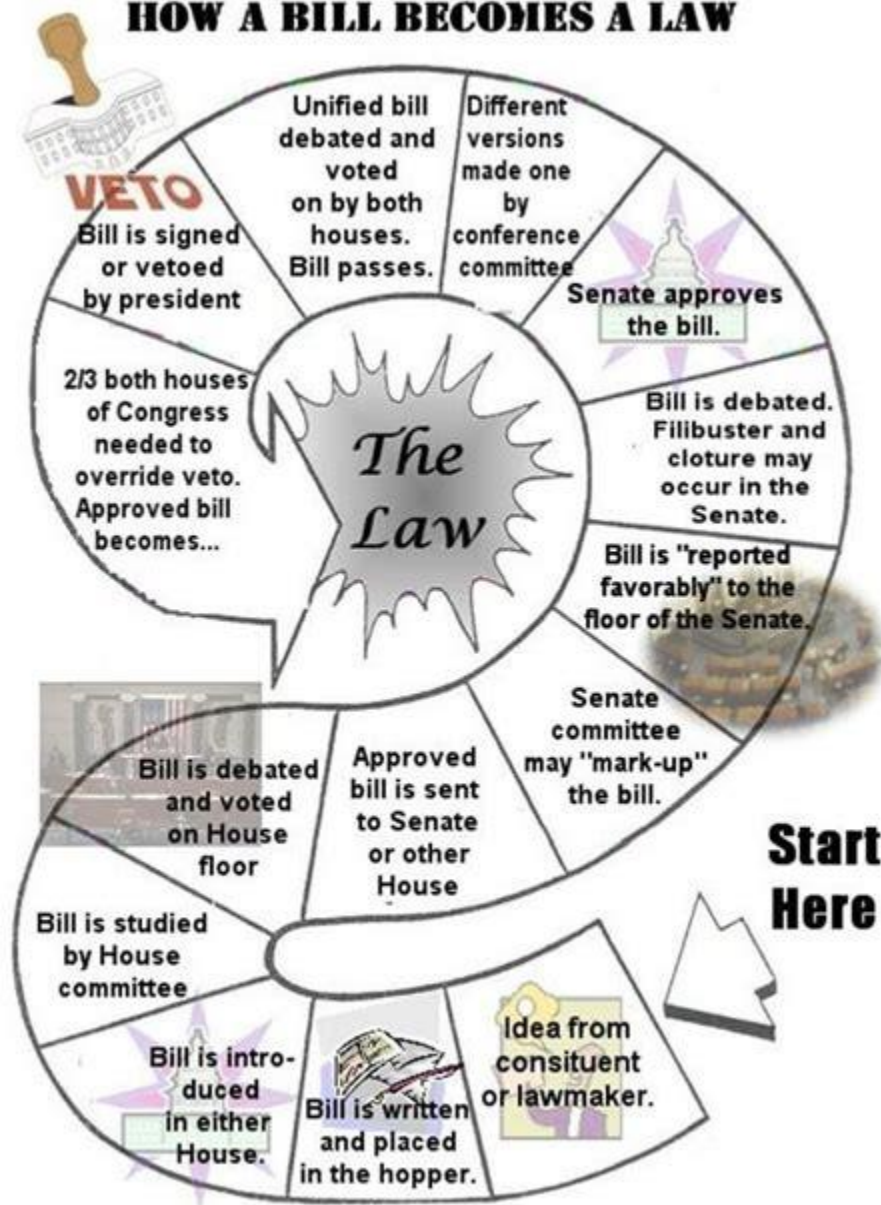
## **What is a Special Interest Political Action Committee (PAC)?**

- A political action committee, or PAC, is a tax-exempt organization that collects voluntary contributions and distributes those funds to campaigns to elect or defeat candidates running for federal, state, or local public office.
- PACs may also collect contributions to be used to influence the passage or defeat of state ballot initiatives, and state or federal legislation.
- The majority of PACs represent private businesses, labor unions, or particular ideological or political viewpoints, such as the special interest of animal welfare.

## **Why are individual constituents (citizens) important in government?**

- Individuals have a right to choose their governmental, political, and electoral systems to represent themselves and their interests and/or needs in the society in which they live.
- The authority of government likewise derives from the will of the people in their choice of these systems.
- The people have a right to take part in their government--including through genuine elections to determine who will legitimately occupy governmental offices, and what laws are proposed and passed.
- The power and wealth and very existence of the government is in the hands of the people. The work of governing shall be done by elected representatives of the people. This only works when the people understand this and participate in it by staying informed and participate by voting.

## HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



Watch this fun video and contact us!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFroMQIKiag>

Every state resident can participate in establishing laws that accomplish good for those that need help.



## What does Colorado Animal Protectors do?

We help protect Colorado's animals by working closely with citizens, law enforcement, the judiciary, state legislature, and lawmakers at all levels who are elected to represent their areas. We help connect people and organizations with special needs who seek to have legal remedies as they try to create a better world for animals.

## Why Do We Need You In CAP's Animal Future Movement (AFM)?

If you have a passion for animals, our AFM needs you! Your energy, presence, and teamwork can help us represent animals to people in power. We can teach and connect you to resources to make a difference.

Most importantly, young people are the future. The younger you begin to fight for others, the more experienced and knowledgeable you will be through the years of your work. We remain focused on the future of Colorado and the animals who currently and will futuristically reside here.

## What You Can Do To Help~



Be a **Buddy not a Bully**: Teach others to respect and care for all living things. This focuses on the core values of:

- ❖ **Responsibility** – doing what you are supposed to do whether you want to or not.
- ❖ **Compassion** – understanding how someone feels and doing something about it.
- ❖ **Integrity** – being honest and having a strong character even when no one is watching.
- ❖ **Self-Control** – not letting your emotions control your actions.

## ~ Join an Organization and Team with CAP & AFM~



### ❖ Scouts

- <https://www.denverboyscouts.org/>
- <https://www.girlscoutsofcolorado.org/>
- Kids of all ages can earn unique badges!
  - Girl Scouts are invited to work on their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects
  - Boy Scouts can complete their Eagle Scout projects with
  - There are lots of ways that we can help your troop as well as opportunities for them to help us!
- Earn the following **Girl and Daisy Scout** badges; Pets Badge, Community Service Badge, Animal Habitats Badge, First Aid Badge, Friendly and Helpful Petal and Make the World a Better Place Petal
- Earn the following **Boy and Eagle Scout** merit badges; Community Service, First Aid, Eagle Scout Service Projects

### ❖ 4-H Clubs

- <http://co4h.colostate.edu/>
- The 4-H mission is "engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development". It's name is a reference to the occurrence of the initial letter H four times in the organization's original motto: "head, heart, hands, and health," which was later incorporated into the fuller pledge officially adopted in 1927. There are many animal programs that teach compassion, respect, and care of all species.



## Roots & Shoots Program

- <https://www.rootsandshoots.org/>
- Founded by world-renowned anthropologist Jane Goodall, Roots & Shoots focuses on animals as well as the environment.



- ❖ Most **Animal Shelters** in Colorado provide humane education programs and we network with them on animal welfare legislation.
  - See a list on our CAP Resources list page on this website: [ColoradoAnimalProtectors.org](https://ColoradoAnimalProtectors.org)

**JOIN THEM AND US!**

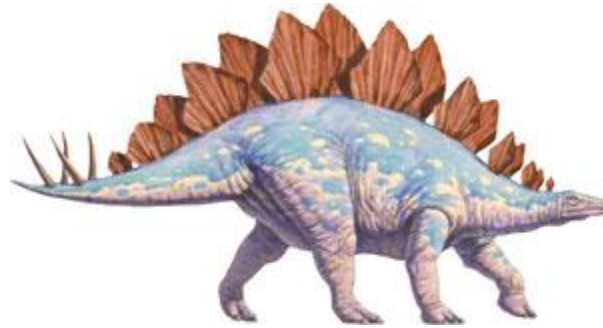


# Fun Facts

## Colorado State Critters

All states designate symbols of their iconic animals, birds, flowers, trees, and other native species of life. Here are some of the chosen symbols for Colorado:

### State Dinosaur



In 1982, the governor of Colorado signed a bill making **Stegosaurus** the official state dinosaur, after a two-year write-in campaign spearheaded by thousands of fourth-grade students. Stegosaurus lived in what came to be Colorado during the Mesozoic era, Jurassic period--150 million years ago!

### State Wild Animal



The magnificent **Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep** was designated official state animal in 1961. Named for their massive, curling horns (which can grow to 50 inches in length) and known for their agility and perfect balance, bighorns are found only in the Rockies above the timberline in extremely rugged terrain. Their horns are not shed annually like the antlers of deer and elk, but grow in length and circumference throughout the sheep's life.



## State Domestic Animal--Pets



Colorado designated **shelter and rescue dogs and cats** as the official state domestic animals in 2013. Being responsible for a pet requires the commitment and to provide food, water, shelter, exercise, mental stimulation, and veterinary care. All owners should ensure the pet has been spayed or neutered to prevent overpopulation, and to tag and/or microchip so they are properly identified. The responsibility to the animal should be a commitment for the lifetime of the pet.

## State Bird



The official state bird is the **lark bunting**. The migratory songbird bird was chosen as state bird in 1931. The lark bunting belongs to a group of birds known as the American sparrow. In Colorado, the population has been decreasing at an annual rate of 2.5% between 1966 and 2003.

## State Fish



The **greenback cutthroat trout** was once widespread in the South Platte River drainages of Eastern Colorado and Southeast Wyoming, today occupies less than 1% of its historical range. It is currently listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. It was adopted as the state fish on March 15, 1994.

## State Insect



The upper side of the **hairstreak's** wings is dark purple with a broad black or dark border. Each wing has orange spots at the lower outer edge, and each hind wing has a thin hair like tail. It has a wingspan of 3.1–3.8 cm (1.2–1.5 in). It was designated the state insect in 1996.

## State Reptile



The **painted turtle** is the most widespread native turtle of North America. It lives in slow-moving fresh waters. Fossils show that the painted turtle existed 15 million years ago. Reliant on warmth from its surroundings, the painted turtle is active only during the day when it basks for hours on logs or rocks. During winter, the turtle hibernates, usually in the mud at the bottom of water bodies. Adults in the wild can live for more than 55 years.

## State Amphibian



Recognized by the Colorado legislature on March 16, 2012, the **barred tiger salamander** inhabits open fields and rough ground, upland meadows, grasslands, semi-deserts and deserts and is occasionally found in streams.