



Bat Advocacy and Tracking Society (BATS): Urban Bat Behavior Outreach and Community Education Program at Cal Poly Pomona



The Bat Advocacy and Tracking Society (BATS) at Cal Poly Pomona hosts a semiannual outreach program that connects community members with real-world animal behavior research using urban bats as models. Bats are one of the least understood and most ecologically important groups of mammals, yet they are critical for demonstrating principles of foraging behavior, ecological studies, habitat selection, and responses to urbanization. Our project – which attracts over 100 community guests per event – is dedicated to providing hands-on, interactive demonstrations of bat behavior, data collection, and scientific inquiry.

Outreach Activities:

We will host two outreach events during the grant period that will utilize:

- 1) Live demonstrations of bat behavior where guests will observe urban bat activity using acoustic detectors, thermal cameras, and insect traps. We will interpret real-time data to show how bats adjust their foraging behavior to light levels, noise, prey availability, and habitat structure.
- 2) Guided animal behavior stations where attendees rotate through stations led by BATS members covering echolocation, foraging, flight, and urban responses.
- 3) Real-time studies with visual data from undergraduate and graduate students, and professionals.
- 4) Events that are free, outdoors, and held in accessible campus areas where we regularly gather more than 100 guests, including K-12 students, families, local residents and university students from non-science majors.



