# Advancing Conservation through Empathy for Wildlife (ACE for Wildlife™) Network Channel Host responsibilities

Previously called special interest group hosts, Channel Hosts are responsible for cultivating community on the channels in the ACE for Wildlife Network’s discussion board. Hosts do not need to be experts on the channel topic to be an effective host, but they should be passionate about the topic, active to work related to it, and eager to cultivate community and conversation on the topic. Anyone in the ACE for Wildlife Network is eligible to be a Channel Host.

Channel Hosts terms are not to exceed 1-year in length, with the call for service occurring concurrently with the committee call for service in the autumn of each calendar year. The *average* estimated time commitment for Channel Hosts is less than or equal to one hour per month, with some months requiring more time than others. During an individual’s term as a Channel Host, they are responsible for the following:

1. Posting on their channel at least once a month to generate discussion. These posts must be related to the channel topic, should intersect with fostering empathy for wildlife (and/or fostering empathy for people), and abide by our [Network Code of Conduct](https://www.aceforwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Membership-Code-of-Conduct.pdf?_gl=1*1b9chfj*_ga*MTQ4ODM0MTE4OS4xNzMxNTIxODU2*_ga_9HCD2NG2B0*MTc0NjExNzkwNi4xMzEuMS4xNzQ2MTE3OTA3LjAuMC4w).
2. Hosting at least one coffee chat on a topic of interest in their channel (or for the channel more broadly). For more information on hosting coffee chats, please refer to the [Coffee Chat Planning Form](https://www.aceforwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Coffee-chat-planning-form.docx).

Additionally, it is expected that at least one Channel Host will be present at each ACE for Wildlife Network welcome/onboarding session that is hosted throughout the year. Channel Hosts are expected to talk about their channel, topics that are discussed, and any coffee chats that may be coming up related to their channel. These events typically happen three times during a year, once in January/February, once in the middle of the year (May/June), and once in the autumn (September/October). Because there are more Channel Hosts than there are welcome/onboarding sessions, not every Channel Host will attend a session during their term.

The following channels are eligible to be hosted by Members and Affiliates:

1. **Animal Husbandry & Programming:** This channel relates to the intersections of empathy practices and programs, wellbeing, interpretation, training, and other topics related to or involving animals.
2. **Biofacts:** This channel relates to the intersections of empathy and the care and curation, presentation, programs involving and other topics related to biofacts. Biofacts are biological materials of a once living organism, such as pelts, bones, feathers, and teeth. For our discussions, these also include Bone Clones and similar specimen replicas.
3. **Communications:** This channel focuses on how we communicate about effective empathy practices and/or use effective empathy practices in our internal and external communications. Internally, this can include empathy training or cultivating leadership buy-in. Externally, this can include social media, press releases, or public statements. *Representatives from the Communications Committee are responsible for acting as Channel Hosts for this channel.*
4. **Conservation:** This channel focuses on the use of empathy practices in conservation initiatives. *Representatives from the Conservation Action Committee are responsible for acting as Channel Hosts for this channel.*
5. **DEAI:** DEAI stands for diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion. Posts in this channel should relate to initiatives, questions, or the sharing of resources related to increasing individual and organizational awareness and action around diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion efforts. Posts on similarly related topics, such as environmental justice, are also welcome. *Representatives from DEAI Committee are responsible for acting as Channel Hosts for this channel.*
6. **Education:** Posts in this channel should relate the infusion of empathy practices into education programs. This broadly includes everything from structured programs to informal interactions with guests.
7. **Evaluation:** Posts in this channel should relate to the measurement of empathy and other outcomes in exhibits and programs. This can include sharing or asking about tools or methodologies used to measure outcomes, evaluation reports and findings, and evaluation-related resources and professional development opportunities.
8. **Fundraising & development:** This channel was created following the 2025 Empathy Summit and focuses on providing folks in the Network with more resources and conversation around fundraising and development.
9. **Signage & Non-Personal Interpretives:** This channel focuses on signage that is created, used, and/or updated, to include effective empathy practices.

The remaining channels are monitored by individuals on the Advancing Empathy team at Woodland Park Zoo. If you are interested in a new channel being created, please contact the Advancing Empathy team by emailing [empathy@zoo.org](mailto:empathy@zoo.org). By proposing a new channel, you will become the channel’s first host once it is created and should host a coffee chat on a topic related to the channel within three months of the channel’s creation. When proposing a channel, your email should include the following:

1. What channel you believe should be created, and why,
2. The proposed name of the new channel, and;
3. A brief description of the new channel (see above for examples).

If you have further questions, please reach out to the Advancing Empathy Team at [empathy@zoo.org](mailto:empathy@zoo.org).