**Ohio Bat Working Group**

**Ohio Bat Blitz**

**Invitation for Proposals**

Despite the increased importance of monitoring bat populations, this can be difficult to accomplish because of the expertise, time, and cost required to conduct extensive surveys. One cost-effective method that can be used to inventory bat species in an area is a Bat Blitz. A Bat Blitz generally takes place over a short period of time (2-3 nights) and involves experts teamed with volunteers conducting coordinated and intensive surveys at a specific location. Ohio conducted its first Bat Blitz in 2022 ([more information here](https://u.osu.edu/obwg/bat-blitz/)) to great success and we would like to conduct more blitzes in the future.

The goals of the Ohio Bat Blitz are:

* To increase our knowledge of bat distribution and populations in Ohio;
* To provide an opportunity to students or early career scientists who would like to gain more experience operating mist nets, handling bats, and conducting telemetry;
* To provide outreach and education to the public;
* To provide a networking opportunity for bat researchers in Ohio.

Only proposals for research and educational purposes will be accepted. Proposals for personal gain, for profit, or for business purposes will not be considered.

In order to maximize participation, the Blitz should take place the first weekend following August 15th. If August 15th is a Friday, the Blitz should be planned for the following weekend. The two nights of netting can either be Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday. The Ohio Bat Blitz will take place every other year in **even** years.

If your organization is interested in hosting a future Ohio Bat Blitz, we invite you to submit a proposal. Proposals can come from a single organization, but we also encourage collaboration between multiple parties with near or adjacent land ownerships, or if a single host cannot provide all the required amenities for the Blitz. Hosts will also be supported by an experienced Bat Blitz committee.

The proposal should contain the following, at minimum:

1. **Netting location information** –
	1. General overview of the habitat types, number of acres available for use, accessibility/trails to potential summer net sites, knowledge of listed species (not limited to bats), etc.
	2. Have any prior bat surveys been conducted on the property? If so, indicate what types (e.g., emergence, mist-net, hibernacula, acoustic), when, and provide summaries. Are there any known bat roosts and/or hibernacula?
2. **Lodging –**
	1. Driving distance from the netting locations to nearest indoor lodging (such as cabins, bunkhouses, or hotels)
		1. Estimate of nightly lodging cost
	2. Campsite information, if applicable
3. **Education/outreach –**
	1. Outline what education and outreach events you will conduct or products you will create in conjunction with the Blitz. These can occur before, during, and/or after the event.
4. **Goals –**
	1. What are your goals for the Bat Blitz? How would the data be beneficial to your organization? How will the blitz help with conservation and management in the proposed area?
	2. How will your organization support the Blitz?
		1. Do you have staff or volunteers who will help plan and execute the event (e.g., logistics planning, scouting potential net sites and accessibility, organizing running outreach events, etc.)?
5. **Funding –**
	1. What can you contribute (monetarily or otherwise) towards the Blitz? Expenses fall broadly into the following categories: lodging, networking event, netting supplies, food, t-shirts and other “swag”

**Deadline:** Proposals are due July 1, 2023. You may propose to host either the 2024 or 2026 Ohio Bat Blitz during this proposal cycle. Selection of a site will be made by September 1, 2023.

**Submit proposals to:** **sstankavich@batcon.org**

Any data collected during the Blitz will be considered to be jointly owned by the host organization and the Ohio Bat Working Group, e.g. data will be available for use by agency staff, researchers, and submission to NABat.

Please contact sstankavich@batcon.org if you have questions.