

## The Endless Forms

## News-letter

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*Another Year of Wildlife Wonders*

We are looking forward to another year of events with the [Asombro Institute](https://asombro.org/) for Science Education, who will be hosting another suite of wildlife celebrations throughout 2025. This year the focus will be butterflies and other pollinators, nocturnal desert animals, as well as threatened species in need of conservation. Once again, Asombro will be giving out free *Endless Forms* trading cards and will be selling decks and other merchandise at their pop-up gift shop. Find us at our table to play a few turns!

*Butterfly Flutterby - May 17th*9 a.m. to Noon - [Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park](#)

Did you know that butterflies are really just flashy, day-flying moths? Learn more about their natural history and go on a guided butterfly walk with friend-of-the-game Dr. Rob Wu at 10 a.m., start your own nature journal with another friend-of-the-game, artist Kay Gross, and visit with folks from the Las Cruces Master Gardeners and the NM BioPark Society.

*The Desert After Dark - Oct 11th*5:30 to 7:30 p.m. - [Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park](#)

It's not uncommon for desert hikers to go for a walk and see little, if any, wildlife. Because of the harsh conditions, many desert animals only appear for a short period of the year, and only at night. Discover these diverse and perhaps surprising species at this special (and spooky) evening program.

*Wildlife Conservation Day - Aug 30th*9 a.m. to Noon - [Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park](#)

New Mexico is full of rare and under-appreciated species with fascinating stories behind them. Celebrate a special selection of these animals with us and grab a matching *Endless Forms* card, including our first amphibian card!

Introducing  
Amphibians!

*Amphibians are finally here!  
Our animal groups are now  
complete: enjoy arthropods,  
amphibians, reptiles, birds,  
and mammals in the game.*





## On the Five Animal Groups

Have you noticed that there are certain design themes among arthropod, amphibian, reptile, and mammal cards? Just as the animals within these groups share similarities due to their close genetic relationships, cards in each of the five clades possess similar strengths and weaknesses that are useful to keep in mind as you craft your deck.

Arthropods are perhaps the most straightforward species cards to play. They typically benefit from special habitat resources and can remain in place quietly earning population counters while your flashier animals distract your opponent.

Mammals are more generalists and offer large powerful predators for you to make use of.

Amphibians are sensitive to environmental conditions, so your amphibian cards care about changes to their habitats.



Birds are often highly social and interactive. Bird cards, correspondingly, are about synergies. Use them to make powerful combinations with other cards.

Reptiles are a more defensive group, built to deter your opponent or survive adverse conditions.

## Unseen Diversity

The trail cameras at Asombro's **Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park** reveal the true and surprising variety of animals that can be found in this particularly dry corner of the Chihuahuan Desert. Many of these species are not commonly seen for just this reason - due to the harsh conditions, many desert animals must wait until favorable conditions arrive before they venture out. This may involve spending the better part of the year in a dormant state (e.g. toads, box turtles, and many insect eggs & pupae), or may simply mean that they only come out at night to avoid the parching daytime temperatures. Take a look at some of the awesome nocturnal park residents that Asombro has documented, and make sure to come to their evening event on **October 11<sup>th</sup>** to grab trading cards featuring a few of these photos!

Asombro Institute's  
**Chihuahuan  
DESERT  
NATURE PARK**

