

Date: February 20, 2026

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Chair Jennifer Allen
Pima County Supervisor for District 3 and Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 N. Stone Ave, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: **Everybody Needs a Rock Day Proclamation**

Dear Melissa,

Please add the following item to the agenda for the March 24th, 2026 meeting of the Pima County Board of Supervisors:

Proclamation: Everybody Needs a Rock Day

The individuals receiving the proclamation include:

1. Dustin Williams, Pima County Superintendent of Schools,
2. Jesse Stanley, Byrd Baylor's grandson and professional musician and music teacher
3. Kris Gade, Director of Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources
4. Natalie Shepp, Environmental Quality Manager for Pima County's Department of Environmental Quality
5. Skye Siegel, Community Engagement Coordinator for Pima County's Department of Environmental Quality

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, Pima County Conservation Lands & Resources, and Pima County School Superintendent's Office are working together to promote Everybody Needs a Rock Day on March 28 to honor nature educators, mentors, and teachers as "rocks" in our community and celebrate the birthday of desert dweller, social and environmental justice leader, and nature educator Byrd Baylor; and

WHEREAS, Byrd Baylor, who would have been 102 this year and is Pima County's own Caldecott Award-winning author and cherished children's writer of over 30 books, taught a land ethic philosophy with humans as integral members of the ecosystem, inspiring generations of desert dwellers; and

WHEREAS, Pima County's community members, policymakers, and leaders empower youth and adults to open their eyes, minds, and hearts to actively protect the desert environment and seek nature-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 25th anniversary of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, built on the understanding that healthy desert habitats are essential to support community vitality, wellness, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, County residents are encouraged to deepen their connection with nature by engaging in environmental education and stewardship programs such as guided hikes, field trips, wildlife watching, nature drawing and journaling, and volunteer invasive species removal and habitat restoration events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims March 28 every year in Pima County, to be:

"EVERYBODY NEEDS A ROCK DAY"

and urges students, parents, teachers, mentors, librarians, administrators, community leaders, schools, and school districts in Pima County to celebrate Byrd Baylor's birthday and encourage everyone to support healthy desert habitats, nature educators, teachers, and other community "rocks" on this day and every day.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of March 2026.

The Honorable Jennifer Allen, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors