

# Public Signature Gathering

## Suggested Script:

While holding your poster and maintaining eye-contact, ask in a friendly manner, **“Please sign to support protecting our wildlife.”**

If the person stops, ask, **“In which county are you registered to vote?”** while handing them a clipboard. If someone accepts the clipboard, they are likely to sign! Make sure they have the right county sheet.

You may add, **“Arizonans for Wildlife is trying to stop trophy hunting and trapping of our wild cats.”** If they start signing, stop talking and move on to the next person.

If they hesitate, tell them, **“Your signature will help put this issue on the ballot so voters can decide.”**

If they request more information, give them a flyer and refer them to the campaign office. Explain that you are on a deadline and have to continue gathering. Thank them and go on to the next person.

## Tips for Successful Signature Gathering:

- **Be prepared!** Take four clipboards, extra pens, a poster, plenty of petitions, and some flyers. Wear your volunteer button and/or display a poster.
- **Be friendly!** You may be the only contact voters have with the campaign, and we want to leave them with a good impression. Your positive attitude reflects well on the campaign and is important for the morale of all our volunteers.
- **Be relatable!** Dress like those from whom you’re asking for signatures. The more you look like them, the more likely they are to sign. Don’t wear clothes such as t-shirts with alternative messages.
- **Be quick!** Say as little as possible, and find a simple line that works for you, such as *“Have you signed to stop trophy hunting of wild cats in Arizona?”* We’re not asking for a vote on the issue now, we’re just asking for a signature to put it on the ballot.
- **Be zen!** If an angry or argumentative person approaches you, smile and walk away. Avoid engaging in debate on the issue--that is the BEST thing you can do for animals.
- **Be persistent!** Remember, **the more people you ask, the more signatures you will get.** Base your success on the number of signatures you get per hour, not on the number of people who pass you. If you’re not gathering at least 25 signatures an hour, re-read and follow our tips and/or try another location.
- **Be meticulous!** Make sure there are no shortened city initials, like PV for Paradise Valley; all must be fully written out. If the first person writes legibly and correctly, others will follow the example.

## **SMILE AND HAVE FUN!**

Remember, we are here to help you. Please contact the campaign office if you want to work with other volunteers in your city, need ideas for other locations to gather signatures, encounter any problems, or have any questions.

Again, **thank you for participating in this important and groundbreaking campaign.** Your time and effort will make a difference to thousands of animals.