



# Madilyn Messenger

## *Western Burrowing Owls*

In collaboration with Wild at Heart Burrowing Owl Habitat, Madilyn began brainstorming innovative ideas to help burrowing owls who are being threatened due to habitat loss. Madilyn traveled to Gila Bend and Salome, Arizona during the months of September and October to construct more than 50 burrows for owls that had been displaced by construction. There, she learned more about some of the materials needed to build a burrow: barrels, tubing, and chicken wire. Since burrowing owls cannot create their own shelters, Madilyn's thoughtful project played a key role in supporting the health and survival of this remarkable species, shielding them from predators and the threat of extinction. By the end of her project, she had helped release 150 owls back into the wild. As she continues to build meaningful connections and expand her academic journey, Madilyn plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Business, Hotel, and Restaurant Management.

