



CALIFORNIA NATURALIST
DISCOVERY • ACTION • STEWARDSHIP



Inland Empire UC California Naturalist Program

Course Overview

General. The UC California Naturalist Program (CalNat) seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteer naturalists trained and ready to participate in science and take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration. The UC California Naturalist course will introduce you to the wonders of our local ecology and engage you in the stewardship of California's natural communities. The course will combine a science curriculum with guest lecturers, field trips to explore cultural and natural resource sites, and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world.

In partnership with the Urban Conservation Corps and the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District, this UC California Naturalist Course will focus on Southern California and the unique natural and cultural resources found there.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand what it means to be a naturalist.
- Integrate knowledge about the interconnectedness of abiotic, biotic and cultural factors and their influence on the natural history of inland Southern California.
- Demonstrate skills in making and recording natural history observations in a field notebook.
- Apply knowledge of the local bioregion to local and global environmental issues.
- Meet all of the course requirements.

RCRCD Instructors

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Course Start & End

Jan. 24- Mar. 27, 2024

CalNat Website

<http://calnat.ucanr.edu/>

Registration

<https://www.rcrcd.org/california-naturalist-program>

Class Location

RCRCD LandUse Learning Center
and local field sites.

Class Schedule

weekly on Wed. 9am-1pm
stewardship Projects and
Graduation: Mar. 27, 2024

Course Requirements

Contact Time: Each UC California Naturalist course consists of a minimum of 40 educational hours (classroom hours and field time), which includes a minimum of 8 hours in the field.

Class Attendance and Field Trips: Participants must attend all classes and field trips. If an activity is missed, the participant will be expected to complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor.

Stewardship Project

- **Participants** are required to complete a Stewardship Project in one of six areas: Community Resilience and Adaptation, Conservation/Restoration, Education/Interpretation, Environmental and Climate Justice, Participatory Science or Program Support. The Stewardship Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with the

in-class material toward the development of an applied work project that is done in conjunction with a natural resource agency or organization. Participants must get pre-approval for Stewardship Projects in the first two weeks of the course. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will deliver an individual or group Stewardship presentations (5 minutes long per person) on graduation day. Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours in addition to the 40 hours in the course on the Stewardship project and will add hours spent on the Stewardship Project into the volunteer portal.

Using a Field Notebook and Journal: All participants are required to keep a field notebook during the course with entries from all field days and other directed activities. The course encourages all participants to develop the skills of (1) systematically recording field observations in the field notebook. At the same time, participants can (2) use the notebook as a journal to reflect on their observations as well as what they have learned in the course. These are the twin goals of the field notebook and journal. Field notebooks will be checked by the instructor periodically during the class or at the end.

iNaturalist Observation and Partner iNaturalist Project: Over the course of the UC California Naturalist class, each participant will be responsible for registering for an iNaturalist account (<http://www.inaturalist.org/>) and adding at least 10 observations to the course iNaturalist Project. Our class iNaturalist Project is Inland Empire UC California Naturalist.

Class Participatory Science Project: Each participant is required to contribute to the participatory science project adopted by the class.

Evaluation: Completion of the post-course evaluation survey is expected and the final confirmation of graduation from Trainee to California Naturalist may be withheld until complete.

Reading

- Read Chapters prior to class instruction, i.e. Chapter 1 to be completed before first class:
The California Naturalist Handbook by Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stranger Edelman, Adina Merenlender Book information:
https://ucanr.edu/sites/uccnp/About_the_program/California_Naturalist_Handbook/

Recommended Supplemental Reading

- *Nature for All: The Groups Bringing Inclusion Outdoors:*
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11830597>
- *Explore the cultural resources of California State Parks:*
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=22499
- *Santa Ana River Guide: From Crest to Coast*

Course Materials

Required:

- Access to internet connected computer or phone with an email account-needed for communication, accessing the California Naturalist volunteer portal, and for using the iNaturalist app.
- Field Notebook (provided at first class if you don't have your own.)
- Pencil(s)

Recommended:

- Hand lens (10x)
- Binoculars

Helpful Resources

- **CalNat YouTube Channel:** View videos from UC California Naturalist conferences, meetings, and more:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg>
- **CalNat Participatory Science Portal:** UC California Naturalist program developed a StoryMap (https://calnat.ucanr.edu/California_PPSR/) about participatory science in the program to highlight the different types of projects and the depth of participatory science in the program. In addition, a three part video training (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBEIahTDJmdnk68AHknKbAPBw7SdEpdFX>) on participatory science drawing on examples from throughout UCANR programs.
- *Backyard Birds of the Inland Empire** by Sheila Kee
- *Wildflowers and Important Native Plants of the Inland Empire** by Barbara Iyer * available for purchase from RCRCD

Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal

Participants will be provided with an online California Naturalist account to track their volunteer hours, including hours spent on their Stewardship Project. A welcome email with a username and temporary password will be sent to you after instructors add your information to the system. Notify your instructor if you do not receive that email. Tracking your volunteer hours after the course is optional but strongly encouraged as an essential way to document the impact of the UC California Naturalist Program. Participants are encouraged to complete at least forty (40) hours of volunteer service each year. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal, and the pins differ from year to year. The Volunteer Portal website is: <https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr>.

- Volunteer activities need to relate to California's natural or environmental history, occur in California, be sponsored by one or more organization, and be unpaid.
- Your 8-hour Stewardship project will count toward your first year's volunteer hours. You will log these hours in the California Naturalist volunteer portal during class. There are resources available to help you familiarize with the UC California Naturalist volunteer portal and commonly used features. View help guides and videos at http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP_Help/

Additional Information

Course Credit

Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for four academic credits through UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) for an additional fee. Eligible participants will receive a link to a website and guidance on the process to request and pay for credits. Credits are processed at the end of each quarter and may take several weeks to arrive. A certified California Naturalist can only receive credits from one institution. If their community college provides credits for the certification, they are not eligible for the UC credits.

Homework Policy

Participants in this course are expected to use evening time to complete any assigned homework, work on Stewardship projects, and add their reflections on the day's experience in their notebook/journal.

Attendance Policy

Participants must complete a minimum of 40 hours of instruction during the class. In a situation where course content is missed, participants may be able to arrange an alternative option at the discretion of the instructor.

Instructional Methods

The course will integrate a range of instructional methods that promote active adult learning and positive youth development such as experiential learning, inquiry-based approaches and transformative learning. Instructors are strongly encouraged to build on the participant's prior knowledge and experience, promote peer-to-peer discussion, hands-on activities, and other approaches. The majority of the course will include field trips to sites with natural or cultural resources.

Community of Practice (COP)

We invite course graduates to continue learning and interacting as part of an inland Community of Practice group. We provide free educational programs and field trips for our COP graduates. Find educational programs, volunteer activities, and job opportunities at the Facebook group "Cal Nat & Climate Steward Community of Practice-Inland Empire": <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4951802464873086> .

Winter 2024 Inland Empire California Naturalist Course
Wednesdays 9am -1pm Jan. 24-Mar. 27, 2024
(speakers and locations tentative)

DATE	LOCATION	CHAPTER/TOPIC	SPEAKER
Week 1 January 24	Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) 4500 Glenwood Dr. Bldg. F Riverside, CA 92501	Introduction- Class requirements Participatory Science Interpretation	Alisa Slaughter CalNat alumni
Week 2 January 31	RCRCD LandUse Learning Center	Chapter 1 Ca. Natural History and the Role of Naturalists California Bioregions	Dr. Edie Allen UCR Professor Emeritus
Week 3 February 7	Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center (JMDC) 7621 Granite Hill Dr. Riverside, CA 92509	Chapter 2 Geology, Climate and Soils	JMDC staff
Week 4 February 21	Seven Oaks Dam (SOD) 32330 Santa Ana Canyon Road, Highland, CA 92346	Chapter 3 Water	SOD staff
Week 5 February 28	RCRCD	Chapter 4 Plants	Dr. Chris McDonald UCANR and/or Dr. Arlee Montalvo retired UCR Botanist
Week 6 March 6	Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center 11875 Indian Tuck Trail Temescal Valley, CA 92883	Chapter 5 Forest, woodland, range Resources and Management	Kayla Thompson Cleveland National Forest staff
Week 7 March 13	Prado Wetlands (precise location TBD) Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) 11401 Arlington Ave. Riverside 92505	Chapter 6 Wildlife	Bob Packard (retired biologist) Barbara Croonquist HVNC staff
Week 8 March 13	RCRCD	Chapter 7 Energy	Tequesquite solar farm staff GRID Alternatives staff
Week 9 March 20	Sherman Institute 9010 Magnolia Ave Riverside, CA 92503	Chapter 8 Interpretation, Collaboration	Lorene Sisquoc
Week 10 March 27	RCRCD	Stewardship Project Presentations and Graduation	

Continued next page