

How to Register

The St. Joseph County Indiana Master Naturalist Program is limited to 15 participants 18 years or older. **The tuition fee is \$175 and is due no later than August 27.**

Participants must commit to tuition costs, class schedule and volunteer hours.

To Register:

Call Bendix Woods County Park at 574-654-3155

Please have the following information ready:

1. Name
2. E-mail Address
3. Address
4. Phone Number
5. Method of payment (check/credit card)

Please note that COVID-19 safety procedures will be in place as recommended by the St. Joseph County Health Department.

Don't Forget--
Registration Deadline is August 27!

Sponsored by:
St. Joseph County Parks



What can I expect if I attend the Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN) Program?

This program consists of one introductory session and 10, 3-hour sessions focusing on Indiana's natural resources. The course includes sessions on botany, zoology, geology/soils, water, people and natural resources. You must participate in 80% of course sessions to receive your certification.

Instructors, who are selected by the sponsoring agency, are generally considered experts in their field and will provide you with relevant content, hands-on learning and resource materials. Each master naturalist course series ends with an open book quiz. This is required in order to receive your certificate of completion.

How many hours do I need to volunteer?

To receive your certificate of completion, you must commit a minimum of one hour of service per hour of coursework. Your service must be for a state or local park, natural resources agency, or approved local community organization to help with trails, programs, gardening, resource inventory, or other projects that they might have available. Your course sponsor will provide a list of local agencies. You will need to check with your course sponsor for approval before starting your volunteer service.



Indiana Master Naturalist Program of St. Joseph County Fall 2021



An Introductory Program of Nature Discovery
and Service Learning for Adults

www.sjcparks.org

Indiana Master Naturalist

The Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN) Program can provide you with many hands-on opportunities to learn about our Hoosier natural resources. It also provides a way for you to share that knowledge, along with your life experiences, through volunteer service to land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, state/local parks and other natural areas.

2021 Fall Schedule*

Wednesdays, 5:00-8:00pm, EST

Saturdays, 9:00am to Noon, EST

* Please note that schedule and locations are subject to change.

Wednesday, September 8

Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola

Orientation & Taxonomic Principles

Meet the program coordinator and your fellow classmates. Learn more about the program and start your reference files for class materials. We'll also cover basic taxonomic principles.

Wednesday, September 15

St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

Mammals

Many mammals are familiar to us, but can you identify them by examining skulls and pelts? We'll put you to the test to find out how well you can read the signs! Then, focus in on one particular mammal as we explore the world of the bats of Indiana.

Wednesday, September 22

Rum Village Nature Center, South Bend

Herptiles & Insects

We will slither our way into the world of reptiles and amphibians to learn about the native species of Indiana. We'll also learn about the important role of insects and their kin in the environment. Participants will get hands-on experience using various collection methods and tools to investigate and identify these small creatures.

Saturday, September 25

Spicer Lake Nature Preserve, New Carlisle

Birds

Learn the basics of bird anatomy, habits and lifestyles. Then head into the field to practice identifying birds by field marks, behavior and sound.

Wednesday, September 29

St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

Fish & Earthworms

Become familiar with the kinds of fish that call the St. Joseph River home! Learn basic fish anatomy and identification skills. Then take a look underground to discover earthworms and mycorrhizal fungi and their role in healthy ecosystems.

Wednesday, October 6

Spicer Lake Nature Preserve, New Carlisle

Botany 101

Plants are numerous and can be confusing to identify. Learn basic plant physiology as well as tips and tricks on how to identify herbaceous life.



Saturday, October 9

St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

Trees & Invasive Species

Identify invasive trees, plants and shrubs found in the area and explore their effects on native species. Be prepared for hands-on-learning in the field and forest. Some time will be spent identifying native trees.

Saturday, October 23

St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

Freshwater Ecosystems

Clean water is vital to all life on our planet! Discover the connection that water quality has to the plants and animals which call these wet places home. Participants will learn about the stressors on aquatic systems and the measures being taken to protect our water resources in Indiana.

Wednesday, October 27

Bendix Woods County Park, New Carlisle

People & Natural Resources

How have humans interacted with the natural world in Indiana over time? How do we manage and preserve natural areas for today, tomorrow and the future? Explore our state's history, and discover the home-grown naturalists and authors who opened the eyes of many to discovering the natural elements of the landscape.

Saturday, October 30

Rum Village Nature Center, South Bend

That Covers It! (Soils & Geology)

Glaciers shaped many local landscapes, and soil is the foundation of Indiana's modern economy. Find out about the geology and soils of Indiana and how they have impacted our current surroundings.

Wednesday, November 3

Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola

Test your Knowledge

We will test what you have learned throughout the course of the IMN program with an open book quiz. Reminders to students about the required volunteer service and documentation of service will be distributed as well.