

How to Register

The St. Joseph County Indiana Master Naturalist Program is limited to participants 18 years or older. **The tuition fee is \$175 and is due no later than August 25.**

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)

**Don't Forget--
Registration Deadline is
August 25!**

**Sponsored by:
St. Joseph County Parks**



What to expect

This program consists of 10 three-hour sessions focusing on Indiana's natural resources followed by a final wrap-up session and quiz. 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.



Volunteer hours

To receive your certificate of completion, you must commit to 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 2022



**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.

2022 Fall Schedule*

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

Saturdays, 9:00am to Noon, EST

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

Thursday, September 1

St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

Orientation & Fish

Meet the program coordinator and your fellow classmates. Learn more about the program and start your reference files for class materials. We'll also become familiar with the fish of the St. Joseph River and learn basic fish anatomy and identification skills.

Thursday, September 8

Bendix Woods County Park, New Carlisle

Insects

Learn about the important role of insects and their kin in the environment. You'll get hands-on experience using various collection methods and tools to investigate and identify these small creatures.

Thursday, September 15

St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

Mammals & Bats

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.



Saturday, September 17

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. Learn about the stressors on aquatic systems and the measures being taken to protect our water resources in Indiana.

Thursday, September 22

Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola

Soils & Earthworms

Soil is the foundation of Indiana's modern economy. Find out about the soils of Indiana and how they have impacted our current surroundings. Then take a look underground to discover earthworms and mycorrhizal fungi and their role in healthy ecosystems.

Saturday, September 24

St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

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.

Thursday, September 29

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.

Thursday, October 6

Bendix Woods County Park, New Carlisle

People & Natural Resources

Explore our region's history with a representative of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. Then, learn how the relationships between people and the natural world changed with the arrival of settlers from Europe. Discover the home-grown naturalists and authors who opened the eyes of many to discovering the natural elements of the landscape.

Saturday, October 8

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 29

Rum Village Nature Center, South Bend

Geology and Glaciation

Glaciers shaped many local landscapes. After an introduction to local geology, take a bus tour to discover the glacial landforms of St. Joseph County.

Thursday, 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.