UC California Naturalist Program for Urban and California Conservation Corps

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 and California 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.

Co-Instructors

The CalNat instructor will serve as the lead instructor for lessons and field trips. Co-instructors will assist as needed:

- Developing content for the course
- Planning field trips focused on cultural/natural resources
- Facilitating class sessions

The Urban Conservation Corps program manager will serve as a liaison providing any needed translation and book reading/discussion assistance. She will hold her students to an appropriate standard of behavior and provide support for Stewardship projects.

Course Start & End
June 21 - September 6, 2023

CalNat Website
http://calnat.ucanr.edu/
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 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.

- **CCC participants** are required to complete a special video Stewardship project. The Stewardship projects are individual or small group service-learning projects that will focus on the development of short 3-5 minute outreach/educational videos about the unique cultural and natural resources the participants explored in their program. The Stewardship Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with what they are learning in class. The Stewardship Project is an applied work project developed to communicate the importance and value of the natural and cultural resources of California. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will deliver small-group Stewardship presentations to share their video and project (5-7 minutes long total) on graduation day. Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours on their Stewardship project. They are required to upload these hours in the California Naturalist Program Volunteer Portal: [https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr](https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr) prior to graduation/certification. These 8 hours for their Stewardship project are in addition to the 40 hours in the course.

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 5 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. Our class participatory science project is Monarch monitoring using:
https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/

Evaluation: Participants are expected to complete a pre and post questionnaire of the Nature Relatedness Scale. The pre-test should be administered no later than the start of the first day of class and the post-test on the last day. In addition to this, participants are asked to complete an online post-course evaluation. Students will be provided with a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.

Reading

Before the start of the course, please complete the following:
- Complete the pre-class Nature Relatedness Scale questionnaire
- 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

Please notify the instructor immediately if you do not have an e-mail account.

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)
- Video recording device (phone, GoPro, Tablet) one per Stewardship group and editing software.

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 after class 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.

Cancellation Policy
N.A.

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.

Statement on Inclusion and Accommodations
Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please make such requests as early as possible by contacting Erin Snyder, (951) 683-7691 X207, Snyder@RCRCD.org
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District is responsible for providing reasonable accommodations to program participants with disabilities. If you have a learning or physical need that will require special accommodations in this class, you will need to notify your instructor in writing of your accommodation needs. If possible, please notify at least 30 days prior to the first class if you require any special accommodations. This will allow us ample time to provide suitable accommodations. We make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Let your instructor know if accommodations are needed.

Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost
N.A.
### Cal Nat Schedule Summer 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, June 21</th>
<th>Wednesday, June 28</th>
<th>Wednesday, July 5</th>
<th>Wednesday, July 12</th>
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</table>
| **Week 1 - Chapter 1**  
Introduction to Natural History.  
Course Administration  
Pre-read Chapter 1  
-Homework Questions  
-Nature Relatedness Assessment  
Instructor: Erin Snyder | **Week 2 - Chapter 2**  
Geology, Climate & Soils  
Homework review/discussion  
Instructor: Erin Snyder  
Speaker: JMDC staff | **Week 3 - Field Trip**  
Leave SB at 8 AM  
Leave to return ~ 2:30 PM  
Turn in Capstone Project concept  
Instructor: Erin Snyder  
Speaker: Carol Kinzel | **Week 4 - Chapter 3**  
Water  
Instructor: Erin Snyder  
Speaker: Megan Brousseau |
| **Location:**  
9 am - RCRCD, LLC *(tour)* 4500 Glenwood Dr., Riv.  
Speaker: UC rep.  
**Topics:**  
- History and purpose  
- CA. Bio-regions intro  
- Stewardship project  
- nNaturalist  
- google class: reading, homework, videos  
- CoP, volunteering  
- nature journaling | **Locations:**  
9 am - Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center at 7621 Granite Hill Dr, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509  
11 am – Urban Conservation Corps site: 1355 W. 26th St. San Bernardino  
Welcome/Intro by Lizzet Pineda  
**Topics:**  
Landforms, geologic influences, rocks, nutrient cycles, watersheds  
- Using Field Notebooks/Journals  
| **Locations:**  
9:00 am - Sky Park at 28950 California 18, Skyforest coffee/bathroom break  
11 am - MacKay Recreational Park overlooking Papoose Lake & Lake Arrowhead Dam  
321 Rouse Ranch Rd  
1 pm - Mountain History Museum  
27176 Peninsula Dr, Lake Arrowhd.  
| **Locations:**  
9 am - Anza Narrows Park:  
5759 Jurupa Ave, Riverside, CA 92504  
11 am - RCRCD  
**Topics:**  
Aquatic habitat and water in CA. |
| **Homework:**  
Read Chapter 2 and Homework Questions  
Reflect (Journal Prompt):  
What might a Naturalist find to explore at your CCC work site? …and in the area where you grew up?  
View Video(s): Ecosystems of CA, Jasper Ridge Chaparral, Coastal Scrub, Oak Woodlands, Deserts | **Homework:**  
Read Chapter 3 and Homework Questions  
Reflect (Journal)  
Review Journaling Resources folder  
View Video: The Story of Soil  
| **Homework:**  
Study- Where does your water come from?  
Reflect (Journal)  
View Video: Ecosystems of California, Rivers  
Make up any missed work | **Homework:**  
Read Chapter 4 and Homework questions  
Study  
Reflect (Journal)  
View Video: Botany in a Day |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, July 19</th>
<th>Wednesday, July 26</th>
<th>Wednesday, August 2</th>
<th>Wednesday, August 9</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Week 5 – Chapter 4**  
Plants  
Participatory Science data collection  
Instructor: Jenny Iyer  
Speaker: Dr. Arlee Montalvo | **Week 6 – Field Trip**  
Leave SB at 8 AM – return ~ 2:30 PM  
Instructor: Erin Snyder | **Week 7 – Chapter 5**  
Forests, Woodland, and Range Resources and Management  
Instructor: Erin Snyder  
Speaker: Bonni Corcoran | **Week 8 – Chapter 6**  
Animals  
Instructor: Michele Felix Derbarmdiker, Wildlife Biologist  
Speaker: Barbara Croonquist |
| **Locations:**  
9 am - Bonaminio Park  
5000 Tequesquite Ave, Riverside, CA 92501  
11 am - RCRCD: Native Habitat Area  
Topics: Native plants and plant communities | **Location:**  
9 am - Santa Rosa Plateau  
39400 Clinton Keith Rd, Murrieta, CA 92562  
12:30 pm - Lake Perris Ya’i Heki’ Museum  
17801 Lake Perris Drive, Perris, Ca 92571  
Speaker: Philip Harvey  
Topics: cultural resources, oak woodland | **Location:**  
9 am - The Wildlands Conservancy at Oak Glen Preserve  
39611 Oak Glen Road, Oak Glen, CA 92399  
Topic: Wildlands | **Location:**  
9 am Hidden Valley Nature Center  
11401 Arlington Ave, Riverside, CA 92505  
Topic: Native Animals |
| **Homework:**  
Read Chapter 5 and Homework questions  
Work on Stewardship Project  
Reflect (Journal)  
Participatory Science project | **Homework:**  
Work on Stewardship Project  
Reflect (Journal)  
Participatory Science project | **Homework:**  
Read Chapter 6 and Homework questions  
Work on Stewardship Project  
Reflect (Journal)  
View video; California Wildlife 100 Years Later  
Citizen Coyote | **Homework:**  
Read Chapter 7 and Homework questions  
Work on Stewardship Project  
Reflect (Journal)  
View videos; Ecosystems of California Urban, Agriculture  
Make up any missed work  
Participatory Science project |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, August 16</th>
<th>Wednesday, August 23</th>
<th>Wednesday, August 30</th>
<th>Wednesday, September 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 9 – Field Trip</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 10 – Chapter 7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 11 – Chapter 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 12 – Capstones &amp; Graduation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leave SB by 7:30 AM</td>
<td>Energy and Global Environmental Issues</td>
<td>Interpretation, Collaboration and Citizen Science</td>
<td>Instructor: Erin Snyder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start return at 1:30 PM</td>
<td>Instructor: Erin Snyder</td>
<td>Instructor: Erin Snyder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instructor:</strong> Erin Snyder</td>
<td><strong>Locations:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 am – Meet Tequesquite Garden at Bonaminio Park</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 am - SB County Museum</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 am - RCRCD</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9:30 am: Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve at 3842 Warner Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649</strong></td>
<td><strong>Solar Farm</strong></td>
<td><strong>2024 Orange Tree Ln, Redlands, CA 92374</strong></td>
<td><strong>Speakers:</strong> Students</td>
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<td><strong>Speaker:</strong> Whitney Thompson</td>
<td><strong>5000 Tequesquite Ave, Riverside, CA 92501</strong></td>
<td><strong>11 am – Ca Conservation Corps site 1824 Commercenter Circle San Bernardino, Ca 92408</strong></td>
<td><strong>- Stewardship presentations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Ocean ecosystems</td>
<td><strong>11 am - RCRCD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Topic:</strong> Interpretation</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of Certificates</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Course conclusion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Homework:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td><strong>Work on Capstone Reflect (Journal)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Finish Stewardship Project Reflect (Journal)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Homework:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Work on Capstone Reflect (Journal) Make up missed work</td>
<td>Make up missed work Participatory Science project</td>
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<td><strong>Homework:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Participatory Science project</strong></td>
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