

Inland Empire Fall 2022 California Naturalists

Course Overview

Instructors

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Course Start & End

Sept. 8 - Dec. 17, 2022

CalNat Website

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

Class Location

Hybrid, asynchronous, online course work and in-person field trips

Class Schedule

Thursdays: 6-8 pm online

Field Trips: Sept. 10, Oct. 8,
Nov. 12 and Dec. 10

Capstones and Graduation:
Dec. 17

General: The California Naturalist Program seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and citizen scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration. The 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 and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world.

Specific: This hybrid California Naturalist Course will be conducted primarily online with no direct contact between participants and the instructor, except for field trips. It uses a blended learning approach that combines individual pre-class work, interactive class sessions using video conferencing, and in-person field experiences.

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 the Santa Ana River watershed
- 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

Course Requirements

1. **Contact Time:** Each California Naturalist course consists of a minimum of 40 educational hours (asynchronous and synchronous online learning, and in-person field experiences).
2. **Required Reading:** Read the entire book "The California Naturalist Handbook," read the relevant bioregional or topical publications from the [UCANR California Naturalist](#) online series, and required pre- and post-class assignments.

Project Learning Tree Option.

Participants taking this course may opt-in to receive the Project Learning Tree (PLT) EDUCATOR certificate and activity guide by simply choosing to complete a PLT focused capstone project (a template is provided for those choosing this route) and participating in a 2-hour workshop.

An additional option of pursuing PLT FACILITATOR training and status may also be available, if the participant joins a local PLT workshop as a co-facilitator.

Asynchronous Course Work

Textbook Chapter homework questions, supplemental videos and other resources are in the Google Classroom

<https://classroom.google.com/u/1/c/NDQ5NDk0MDA0NjUy>

Complete these assignments at your own pace. All homework must be completed and submitted by Dec. 8.

3. **Class Attendance and Field Trips:** Participants must participate in all online classes, and complete all required field experiences. Documentation for individual field experiences must be provided.
4. **Capstone Project:** Participants are required to complete a volunteer service project in one of four areas: Stewardship, Education/Interpretation, Citizen Science or Program Support. The Capstone 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 will record or deliver online capstone presentations (5 minutes long per person) on graduation day.
5. **Using a Field Notebook and Journal:** All participants are required to keep a field notebook during the course. Create a field notebook with entries from all field days and preferably more. Field notebooks may be checked by the instructor periodically during the class or at the end.
6. **iNaturalist Observation:** Over the course of the California Naturalist class, each participant will be responsible for registering for an iNaturalist account (www.inaturalist.org/) and adding at least 20 observations.
7. **Class Citizen Science Project:** Each participant must contribute to the identified citizen science project adopted by the class.
8. **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.
9. **Volunteer and Volunteer Portal (VMS):** Participants are encouraged to volunteer 40 hours or more per year in environmental stewardship, education, program support, or citizen science. Participants will be provided an online account to track volunteer hours, including hours spent on their capstone projects. Graduates record all hours of service in the Volunteer Portal at: <https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr>. Pins are awarded each year for participants who complete 40 hours or more of volunteer time, and the pins differ from year to year. Eight hours of capstone projects count toward the first year of volunteer hours. Tracking volunteer hours is an important way to document program impact.

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> .

Required Text

Students need to purchase *The California Naturalist Handbook* by Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stranger Edelman, and Adina Merenlender, which is available in paperback or E-book.

Course Materials

The following course materials are strongly recommended in order to meet the course requirements:

- **Computer, Chromebook, or tablet**
- **Email Account** for communication, Volunteer Portal, and iNaturalist
- Field Notebook & Journal
- Hand lens (10x)
- Binoculars

Recommended Resources

- *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 RCRC

Homework Policy

Homework will be assigned and may include readings, videos, journal entries, etc. Work will be checked for completion. Quizzes may be given. Certification requires that all assignments be completed. Journals will be checked periodically to make sure students are keeping up with them and using them in a way to enhance their class and field trip experiences.

iNaturalist observations are required as part of the class. At the end of the class, prizes will be awarded to the students who have made the most iNaturalist observations.

Additional assignments and/or projects are required to make up for the time lost during absence. Forty hours of class time is required for certification. Please speak to your instructor as soon as you know you will have to miss a class.

Cancellation Policy

Registrants may cancel up to two weeks before the first day of instruction for a full refund, minus a \$50 administrative fee. Registrants that can successfully refer another student to replace their spot in the course prior to the first day of class will receive a full refund. Registrants that experience a verifiable medical emergency personally, or in their family, between the two weeks of class before and after instruction has begun may re-enroll in the following year's course at a 50% discounted rate, with priority for early registration. Cancellations for other reasons will not result in a refund.

Course Credit

Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for four academic credits through UC Davis Extension for an additional fee. Ask instructor for more information.

Special Accommodations

If you have a learning or physical need that will require special accommodations in this class you will need to notify us in writing of your accommodation needs. Please notify at least 10 days prior to the first class if you require any special accommodations for learning or physical impairments. This will allow us to best meet your needs and allow us ample opportunity to provide suitable accommodations. We make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Materials will be available in alternate formats (Braille, audio, electronic format, or large print) upon request.

Costs

Students are responsible for course fees, purchasing books, and transportation and admission for the field trips. Students are responsible for costs associated with any travel, meals, and equipment, plus related expenses. We will attempt to provide carpools for field trips.

Class Schedule (speakers and locations tentative)

Date	Location/Time	Activity/Speakers
Sept. 8	Zoom Online 6-8pm	Introduction/logistics
Sept. 10	FT #1 TBD Santa Anna River (SAR) Headwaters? 9am-3pm	Edie Allen UCANR, Bonni Corcoran USFS
Sept. 15	Zoom Online 6-8pm	Project Learning Tree Workshop (optional)
Sept. 22	Zoom Online 6-8pm	Review Ch. 1 and Ch. 8
Oct. 6	Zoom online 6-8pm	Review Ch. 4 and Ch. 6
Oct. 8	FT #2 LandUse Learning Center (LLC)/SAR main stem 9am-3pm	Erick Burren SWQCB, Barbara Iyer
Oct. 20	Zoom Online 6-8pm	Review Ch. 3 and Ch. 5
Nov. 3	Zoom Online 6-8pm	Review Ch. 2 and Ch. 7
Nov. 12	FT #3 SJR/Lake Perris/Diamond Valley	Peter Fahenstock? NRCS
Nov. 17	Zoom Online 6-8pm	Review Capstone preparation
Dec. 1	Zoom Online 6-8pm	Review iNat, journals
Dec. 10	FT #4 Bolsa Chica	Friends of Bolsa Chica
Dec. 15	Zoom Online 6-8pm	Final due date all assignments
Dec. 17	RCRCD/LLC 9am-noon	Capstone presentations and graduation