



UC Environmental Stewards
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

CALIFORNIA



NATURALIST

**Inland Empire
California Naturalist Program
Fall 2026
Oct. 14 - Dec. 16, 2026**

Thank you for your interest in the Inland Empire California Naturalist Program!
Registration and signed Participant Agreement forms are due by **Sept. 30, 2026**
with full class payment.

You will NOT be allowed to attend class if you have not paid your registration fee!

**For information regarding the submittal of registration and payment, please see
the Class Fee and Participation sections.**

Registration

***Required Information**

Contact Information

*Name

Date of Application

*Email

*Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

*Phone

Organizational Affiliation, if you have one

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete all of the sections (feel free to use additional space if needed). Your answers will help the instructors tailor the course to the needs and interests of the

class.

1. Please give your reason(s) for applying for the California Naturalist Program.
2. Describe your volunteer experience. Please include the organizations and roles you have played.
3. Please describe your outdoor, nature, or science-based experiences. Include any college degrees and relevant training. Please indicate any areas of personal interest.
4. Do you have any special skills or expertise? In addition to any "naturalist skills," (such as birder, geologist, restoration expert) do you have any other skills that may be useful during this class (artist, computer specialist, marketing, finance, writing, photography, teaching, other)?
5. How did you learn about this California Naturalist course (CA Naturalist website, RCRC website, social media, friend, flyer, etc.)?

Health Information

1. *Please list all allergies (including foods):
2. *Are there any physical or health conditions that might require special attention or medications you take on a regular basis? If so, please explain:
3. *Field trips may require standing and walking for long periods of time on uneven terrain. Are you able to participate under these conditions? If not, please explain.

Participant Agreement

*Attendance

To become a Certified California Naturalist, participants are expected to attend all Wednesday evening classes. Only one evening class session can be missed and the participant will be expected to complete make-up assignments at the direction of the instructor.

☐ I have read and agree to the terms of attendance.

*Participant Requirements

Class participants are required to complete a final project either individually, with a partner, or in a group. Additional requirements include maintaining a Field Notebook for recording observations, submitting iNaturalist observations during the training, and completing all reading assignments.

☐ I have read and agree to the participant requirements.

*Computer Access

Communication to members of the class will be via email; documents will be sent electronically. Computer availability is essential. Class assignments will be on Google Classroom. Following training, California Naturalists use the web-based Volunteer Management System for recording hours and to access opportunities, activities, and teaching materials.

☐ I have the ability to open and send documents and emails, and have internet access.

*Class Fees

- Tuition: \$500
- The California Naturalist Handbook must be purchased ahead of the class. The book is available on Amazon.com and from ucpress.com. If purchased from ucpress.com participants can use the code UCPSAVE30 for a 30% discount. <https://www.ucpress.edu/books/california-naturalist-handbook-second-edition/paper>

My payment will be by:

☐ I agree to send payment to the RCRCD upon completion of this form to secure a spot for myself in the program.

Form of Payment:

- ☐ Check made out to Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (may abbreviate Riverside-Corona RCD), write "CA Naturalist" in the memo
- ☐ Cash – DO NOT MAIL. Bring cash payment to the address below.

Volunteer Hours

*All graduates are strongly encouraged to complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service for a local science-based organization during or following completion of the program. Completion of 40 submitted hours qualifies you for an annual California Naturalist Service Pin.

☐ After completion of the course, I will pursue a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service.

***Refund Policy**

Registrants may **cancel up to two weeks before** the first day of instruction for a full refund, minus a \$50 administrative fee. **Last day for a full refund will be Oct. 1.** 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 extenuating circumstances after the start of class, such as a verifiable medical, may be awarded a partial refund. **No other cancellations, for any other reason, will result in a refund.**

Scholarships

There are a limited number of partial scholarships. If you are interested, please fill out the scholarship application, submit it with the registration form, and wait to send payment until you hear about your scholarship application status.

Please return this registration form and signed participant agreement with payment to the address listed below. You may also turn your forms and payment into the RCRCD in person, Monday through Sunday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

If you have any questions about the course, registration process, or scholarships, please contact California Naturalist course coordinator and instructor, Valeria Velasco.

Valeria Velasco:

Email: Valeria.Velasco@rcrcd.org

Phone: 951-683-7691, ext. 207.

Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation

District 4500 Glenwood Drive Bldg. A

Riverside, California 92501

Attn: CA Naturalist Program