

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 31.**

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 31!**

**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 2023



**An Introductory Program of
Nature Discovery and Service
Learning for Adults**

www.sjcparks.org

Indiana Master Naturalist

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

2023 Fall Schedule*

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

Saturdays, 9:00am to Noon, EST

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

Thursday, September 7

Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola

Orientation & Introduction to Soils

Meet the program coordinators and your fellow classmates. Learn more about the program and start your reference files for class materials. We'll also find out about the soils of Indiana and how they impact our current surroundings and form the foundation of Indiana's modern economy.

Saturday, September 9

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 14

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.



Thursday, September 21

St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend

Soil Ecology & Fish

Take a look underground to discover earthworms and mycorrhizal fungi and their role in healthy ecosystems. We'll also become familiar with the fish of the St. Joseph River and learn basic fish anatomy and identification skills.

Saturday, September 23

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.

Thursday, September 28

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, October 5

Spicer Lake Nature Preserve, New Carlisle

Plant Classification & Identification

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 7

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.

Saturday, October 14

Bendix Woods County Park, New Carlisle

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.

Thursday, October 26

Bendix Woods County Park, New Carlisle

People & Natural Resources

Explore our region's history and 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.

Thursday, November 2

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.