



WHO CAN BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST?

Any adult who loves the outdoors, has a concern for the local environment and wants to provide education and service to help their local community.

You do not need to have a college degree or years of experience. You need to have a sincere desire to learn and share information about nature and be willing to devote time to volunteering and on-going training.

HOW DO I BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST?

Potential participants must complete an application, background check, and an informal interview/orientation. The fee for the classroom and field training, handouts and Master Naturalist manual is \$200.00.

University of Illinois * U.S. Dept. of Agriculture * Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunity in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate contact the Extension Office.

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PROGRAM PARTNERS



ILLINOIS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

WHAT IS THE MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM?

A program designed to educate and train a corps of volunteers to provide support in the conservation, management, and interpretation of the area's natural resources in collaboration with local partners.

In Extension Unit 19, the Illinois Master Naturalist program includes projects and partners in Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie and Shelby counties.

The program provides science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards.

With the help of local experts, University of Illinois Extension provides the educational support for the program, while volunteering is typically coordinated through local partners.



WHAT DOES TRAINING LOOK LIKE?

Each Master Naturalist volunteer participates in at least 40 hours of initial training. The classes are held in a variety of locations, but many will be presented at Douglas-Hart Nature Center. Training sessions include lecture, discussion, hands-on activities, and field trips. Training is held once a week from 5:30-8:30 pm in the fall each year. Dates will be announced on our website and Facebook page.

Topics covered relate to local natural areas and may include: Botany, Environmental Ethics, Soils, Forestry, Geology, Prairies, Mammals, Birds, Wetlands, and Aquatics.

CERTIFICATION

Requires the completion of the initial training and 60 hours of volunteer internship. To remain certified, a volunteer must complete at least 30 hours of volunteer time and 10 hours of continued education each year.

AFTER TRAINING

Each Master Naturalist volunteer intern must complete 60 hours of internship in a variety of approved projects over the course of a two year period. Projects are geared to the needs of the local community, and include natural resource stewardship, citizen scientist activities and public education.

Examples of potential projects:

- Conservation activities in local natural areas
- Creating and maintaining demonstration areas
- Stream, wetland, forest and prairie restoration
- Natural resource work for local not-for-profits
- Environmental teaching through interpretive tours or displays

