

Weekend/After School/Evening Volunteer Naturalist Training
Autumn 2010

Part One: Orientation & Introduction (led by Donna Horton)

Friday, September 17th 6:30 to 8:30 pm (inside/outside.) Meet at the Interpretive Building. Who are we? Who are you? What are we doing? and Why are we here? Also, how does it work? There will be a short guided walk emphasizing some interpretation methods & strategies. Homework for next time: Look through the Training Manual, especially “General Discovery Tours and Pathfinder Tours.”

Part Two: Pathfinder Tours & Naturalist Badges (led by Judy LaFrance)

Saturday, September 18th 1:00 to 3:30 pm (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building. This afternoon's tour will cover some of the specialized tours requested by groups. We hope we will have a real tour led by veteran volunteer naturalists for you to observe. If we do not, Judy will take you on a pathfinder tour. Homework for next time: Look over the “Interpretation” section of the Training Manual, especially the part on Questioning.



Part Three: Interpretation (led by Eddie Reese)

Monday, September 20th 6:30 to 8:30 pm (inside/outside.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.



By now, you should be getting a general idea of how a guided tour goes. Tonight we'll hike another set of trails and focus on how we use the fine art of interpretation to connect with visitors. It may be in a guided tour, or it may be as a roving interpretive naturalist. Homework for next time: Look over the sections on “Night Walks and Full Moon Walks.”

Part Four: Full Moon Walks (led by Amy Morris)

Wednesday, September 22nd 6:30 to 8:30 pm (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.



This evening's tour will cover one of the nature center's most popular programs—walking at night without a flashlight. Homework for next time: Look through the Training Manual, especially “Biotic Index, Communities, Succession, Reading the Landscape, Habitats & Niches.”

Part Five: Wetlands, Grasslands, & Forest! (led by Vinnie Robinson)

Saturday, September 25th 1:00 to 3:30 pm (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.

A guided trip to some of the Nature Center's wetlands will let us take a close look at animal life cycles and tracks. We'll also talk about leading your own group; each new volunteer naturalist will practice on the rest of the group by leading a part of this session. Be ready to take charge for a short while!

Homework for next time: Look over the “Games and Activities” section of the Training Manual.



Part Six: Games & Strategies (led by Donna Horton)

Sunday, September 26th 1:00 to 3:30 pm (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.



By the end of this evening's session, you will have covered most of the Nature Center's trails and visited all three main habitats. Today, we'll focus on activities and games that teach as well as entertain. At the end, we will brainstorm some creative discipline techniques.