

Oxley Nature Center
Weekend/After School/Evening Volunteer Naturalist Training
Spring 2010

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

March 26th 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 & philosophies.

Homework for next time: Look through the Training Manual, especially "General Discovery Tours and Pathfinder Tours."

Part Two: Pathfinder Tours & Naturalist Badges (orientation by Vinnie Robinson; will observe tours led by veterans)



March 27th 1:00 to 3:00 pm (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.

If we have a tour scheduled, you will be teamed up with a veteran, observing a tour in action. If not, Vinnie will take you on a Pathfinder Tour, and share with you details of how they work.

Homework for next time: Look over the sections on "Night Walks and Full Moon Walks."

Part Three: Full Moon Walks (orientation by Amy Morris; will observe tours led by veterans)

March 28th 30th 6:30 to 8:30 pm (all outdoors.) Meet at the Interpretive Building.



This evening's tour will cover one of Oxley Nature Center's most popular programs. In a Full Moon Walk we take visitors out exploring the nature center in the evening without flashlights. Homework for next time: Look over the "Biotic Index," the parts on "Communities," "Succession," "Reading the Landscape," "Habitats & Niches," & the "Games and Activities" section of the Training Manual.

Part Four: Games & Strategies in the Wetlands, Grasslands, & Forest! (led by Julie Monnot)

March 29th 6:00 to 8:30 pm (all outdoors, weather permitting.) Meet at the Teaching Shelter parking lot.

By the end of this evening's session, we will have covered several of the Nature Center's core trails. Tonight is a 2.5 hour session, because we'll visit all three main habitats, as we focus on activities and games that teach as well as entertain. 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! At the end, we will brainstorm some creative discipline techniques.

(New volunteer naturalists can begin leading tours as early as Monday, March 29th. Although the weekend/after school/evening season runs until August 31st, most requests for tours will take place during April and May. Of course there will be a Full Moon Walk each month; however the highest enrollment is typically during the spring months before the mosquito season begins.)