 

Inland Empire

California Naturalist (w/ PLT) Syllabus

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| Instructors **Erika Presley**  Resource Conservationist  RCRCD  951-683-7691 ext. 223  presley@rcrcd.org  **Erin Snyder**  Resource Educator  RCRCD  951-683-7691 ext. 207  [snyder@rcrcd.org](mailto:snyder@rcrcd.org)  **Course Start & End** Jan. 29 - Mar.14, 2020Class Location RCRCD  4500 Glenwood Dr. Bldg. F. Riverside 92501  **Class Schedule**  Wednesdays- 6 pm- 9 pm  Saturdays-8 am-3:30 pm | Course Overview The UC California Naturalist Program seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and citizen scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration. The UC California Naturalist course will introduce you to the wonders of our local ecology and engage you in the stewardship of California’s natural communities. The course will combine a science curriculum with guest lecturers, field trips and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world of inland Southern California and the Santa Ana River Watershed.  **Special Project Learning Tree Options**. Participants taking this course can opt-in to receive the PLT EDUCATOR certificate and activity guide by simply choosing to complete a PLT focused capstone project (a template is provided for those choosing this route) and participating in an additional 3-hour workshop. An additional option of pursuing PLT FACILITATOR training and status may also be available if the participant joins a local PLT workshop as a co-facilitator.  **Registration and Fees**  The course fee is $400. This does not include the required textbook. Space is limited and a small number of partial scholarships are available. To reserve your space in the course or be placed on an interest list for scholarships, please contact one of the instructors listed above.  **Course Requirements**   1. **Contact Time**: Each California Naturalist course consists of a minimum of 40 educational hours (classroom hours and field time). 2. **Required Reading**: Read the entire book *The California Naturalist Handbook*; read the relevant bioregional or topical publication as part of the UCANR 8000 online publication series, and complete assigned homework. 3. **Required Videos**: participants will be required to watch relevant videos as assigned. These videos are meant to enhance and support material covered in the classroom. Viewing time will be an hour or less a week. 4. **Field Trips**: Participants must attend all three field trips. If field trip is missed, the participant will be expected to complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor. 5. **Capstone Project**: Participants are required to complete a volunteer service project in one of four areas: Stewardship, Education/Interpretation, Citizen Science and Program Support. The Capstone Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate the in-class material with an applied work project that is done in conjunction with a natural resource agency or organization. Participants should expect to spend about 8 hours each on their projects during the course. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. You will deliver an individual or group presentation on the projects on graduation day. Presentations will be 5 minutes long per person (so 15 minutes for a 3 person group). 6. **Using a Field Notebook and Journal**: All participants are required to keep a field notebook during the course. Create a field notebook with entries from all field days and preferably more. Field notebooks may be checked by the instructor periodically during the class or at the end. 7. **iNaturalist Observation**: Over the course of the California Naturalist class, each participant will be responsible for registering for an iNaturalist account (http://www.inaturalist.org/) and adding at least 3 observations to our class iNaturalist project, <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/inland-empire-uc-california-naturalist-project> 8. **Class Citizen Science Projects**: Each participant must contribute to the class citizen science projects. All students are required to submit iNaturalist Observations to both the *Inland Empire Naturalists* and Santa *Ana Watershed Community Science Network* iNaturalist projects. Participants will be required to make observations during each class and field trip. In addition, a class project will be selected by participants at the first class. This project will be incorporated into field trips and worked on together as a class. 9. **Interpretive exercise**: Interpretation is a skill that is developed through practice. In order to practice some interpretive skills each participant will be expected to do a brief five minute presentation or interpretive activity with the class during our field trips. We will have a sign-up sheet for each field trip and we will demonstrate some examples. 10. **Attendance:** In order to get the most out of the course and preserve the cohesiveness of our learning community, participants are required to attend all class sessions and field days (Students are permitted to miss one class with make-up work). 11. **Evaluation**: Complete the post-course evaluation survey. 12. **Volunteer and Volunteer Portal (VMS):** Participants will be provided an on-line account to track their volunteer hours, including hours spent on their Capstone project. Tracking volunteer hours is an essential way to prove need and impact of a program like the California Naturalist Program. Participants are strongly encouraged and hopefully committed to volunteering at least 40 hours a year in environmental stewardship, education, program support, or citizen science and recording all hours of service in the Volunteer Portal. 13. **PLT Educator Integration.** In addition to completing the PLT workshop and the PLT Capstone this course will incorporate all the other requirements for the participant to become a Project Learning Tree facilitator. 14. **PLT Facilitator Training Option.** In addition to becoming a PLT educator (as outlined above), course participants may also choose to become a PLT facilitator by participating as a co-facilitator in the delivery of a PLT workshop within 3 months. (See instructors for more information)  Required Text  * The California Naturalist Handbook, Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stranger Edelman, Adina Merenlender. (must be purchased by the participants) * Pre K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide, Project Learning Tree (The guide will be provided to participants for free during course).  Course Materials These materials are **required** and should be brought to every class:   * ***The California Naturalist Handbook* by Greg de Nevers, Barbara Stanger Edelman & Adina Merenlender (2013) \*\*\*** * **Field Notebook & Journal** * **Pencil**(s)   These materials are **strongly recommended** but not required:   * **Hand lens** (10x) * **Binoculars** * **Access to internet connected computer or smart phone**   In addition, please make sure that you have a working email account for class communications, access to California Naturalist Volunteer Portal, and iNaturalist.   |  | | --- | | \*\*\* A 30% discount is available from ucpress.com on the purchase of *The California Naturalist Handbook*. Use the code: 15M4426 |  Resources Additional resources, that participants might find useful during the course, can be found online at the California Naturalist website. <http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/> |
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**Class Schedule\*\***

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| Week (Date) |  | Speaker (Title & Affiliation) |
| **TRAINING**  Saturday 01/25/20  9 am-1 pm | **Optional**  **Project Learning Tree-Mini Workshop** | RCRCD Land Use Learning Center  Erin |
| **CLASS 1**  Wednesday  01/29/20  6-9 pm | **California Naturalist Program**  **Class Introduction**  **Book Chapter 8 and Chapter 1**  Journaling/Field Notebooks  Interpretation  Citizen Science  California Bioregions  **HOMEWORK** Read Chapter 4  iNaturalist observations  Journal Entry  Watch Videos: Coastal sage (6:14),Oak Woodlands (14:27), Jasper Ridge Chaparral (5:07)  Deserts (15:00) | Erin Snyder, RCRCD  Erika Presley. RCRCD |
| **FIELD TRIP** 1  Saturday  02/01/20  8 am-4 pm | Plant identification  Journaling  iNaturalist  Citizen Science Class Project Intro | **Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens ($10 entrance fee)**  **UCR Botanic Garden-Backup** |
| **CLASS 2**  Wednesday  02/05/20  6-9 pm | **Book Chapter 4**  Intro to Botany  Ethnobotany-Plants and People  **HOMEWORK**  Read Chapter 6  iNaturalist observations  Journal entry | Erika Presley, RCRCD  Erin Snyder, RCRCD |
| **CLASS 3**  Wednesday  02/12/20  6-9 pm | **Book Chapter 6**  Native Animals  **HOMEWORK**  Read Chapter 2  iNaturalist observation  Journal entry  Watch Videos: North Coast Forests (11:58), Montane forests (12:01), Grasslands (11:58) | Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker, RCRCD |
| **CLASS 4**  Wednesday  02/19/20  6-9 pm | **Book Chapter 5**  Forest, Woodland and Range  **HOMEWORK**  Read Chapter 3  iNaturalist observation  Journal entry  Watch Videos: Rivers (11:00), Beaches (8:50), Estuaries (12:22), Intertidal (11:48) | Erin Snyder, RCRCD  Michele Felix-Derbumdiker  Bonnie Corcoran, Forest Service |
| **FIELD TRIP 2**  Saturday  02/22/20  8 am-4pm | Birding  Animal Tracking | Prado Basin Wetlands  Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary |
| **CLASS 5**  Wednesday  02/26/20  6-9 pm | **Book Chapter 3**  Water and Watersheds  Video:The Story of the Santa Ana Watershed  Santa Ana Watershed Citizen Science Network  **HOMEWORK**  Read Ch. 5  iNaturalist observation  Journal entry  Watch Videos: Agriculture (12:16), Urban (11:16) | Erika Presley  Erin Snyder  Erik Burres-State WQCB |
| **FIELD TRIP 3**  Saturday  03/07/20  8 am-4 pm | Watersheds | **TBD**  **Possibly:**  **Environmental Nature Center**  **Muth Interpretive Center**  **Back Bay Science Center**  **Bolsa Chica Interpretive Center** |
| **CLASS 6**  Wednesday  03/04/20  6-9 pm | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Book Chapter 2  Geology, Soils and Climate  HOMEWORK Read Chapter 7  iNaturalist observation  Journal entry |  | | Peter Fahnstock NRCS  Erika Presley, RCRCD  Erin Snyder, RCRCD |
| **CLASS 7** Wednesday  03/11/20  6-9 pm | **Book Chapter 7**  Sustainability, Energy & Global Environmental Issues  Our Choices and Impacts  **Homework**  Complete Capstone Projects  Complete any make-up work | Erika Presley, RCRCD  Erin Snyder, RCRCD  Speakers TBA |
| **Capstones**  Saturday  03/14/20  **9 am-3pm** | Capstone Presentations  Course evaluations  GRADUATION! | Potluck Lunch! |

**\*\* Please note that the syllabus as well as speakers and field trip locations are subject to change.**

**Homework Policy**

Homework will be assigned and may include readings, videos, journal entries etc. Work will be checked for completion. Quizzes may be given. Certification requires that all assignments be completed.

Journals will be checked periodically to make sure students are keeping up with them and using them in a way to enhance their class and field trip experiences.

iNaturalist observations are required as part of the class. At the end of the class, prizes will be awarded to the students who have made the most iNaturalist observations.

If you have to miss a class, additional assignments and/or projects will be required to make up for the time lost during your absence. If you do not make up the work, you will not be given credit for the hours you missed. 40 hours of class time is required for certification. Please talk to your instructor as soon as you know you will have to miss a class.

# Cancellation Policy

Registrants may cancel up to two weeks before the first day of instruction for a full refund, minus a $50 administrative fee. 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 a verifiable medical emergency personally, or in their family, between the two weeks of class before and after instruction has begun may re-enroll in the following year's course at a 50% discounted rate, with priority

Course Credit

Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for four academic credits through UC Davis Extension for an additional nominal fee.