

## HOW DO I BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST?

Applications are accepted April through July during odd-numbered years. The class fee of \$225.00 fee covers the field trainings, classroom, handouts, and the Master Naturalist manual. Space is typically limited to 20 participants.

### TELL ME MORE:

For an application or more information about the University of Illinois Master Naturalist program, please contact us at:

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Bloomington, IL 61704  
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University of Illinois Extension provides equal  
opportunity in programs and employment.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact us. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

## PROGRAM PARTNERS

- Ecology Action Center
- Heartland Community College
- Humiston Woods
- Illinois State University
- McLean County Parks
- ParkLands Foundation
- Prairie Lands Foundation
- John Wesley Powell Audubon
- MJ Rhymer Nature Preserve
- Sugar Grove Nature Center
- Wild Ones



University of Illinois Extension offers practical, research-based programs that help people improve their lives and address critical community issues involving youth, families, economics, health, and natural resources. 06/19



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## WHO CAN BECOME A MASTER NATURALIST?

Illinois Master Naturalists are adults who love the outdoors, have a concern for the local environment, and want to provide education and service to their local communities.

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



## WHAT IS THE MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM?

The University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalist program provides science based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards.

The program is designed to educate and train a corps of volunteers to provide support in the conservation, management, and interpretation of the area's natural resources.

Participants engage in a combination of education and service. With the help of local experts, University of Illinois Extension provides the educational support for the program, while the service is typically done at one of the participating partner's locations.

Each Master Naturalist volunteer participates in at least 40 hours of training. Each year thereafter, individuals must complete 10 hours of continuing education and provide 30 hours of service to the local community with education and stewardship efforts.

## WHERE IS THE TRAINING?

The classes are held in a variety of locations across Livingston, McLean, and Woodford counties, integrating classroom meetings and several field trips.

## WHEN IS THE TRAINING?

The classes meet weekly every other year from August to November. Classes are taught by area experts. Once the classroom training is completed, an internship of 60 volunteer hours is required to become certified as a Master Naturalist. Check our website for the next scheduled classes.



## WHAT TOPICS ARE COVERED?

A combination of classroom instruction and hands on field work will be used to cover topics such as environmental ethics, the natural divisions of Illinois, archaeology, soils, botany, climate and weather, forestry, geology, insects, mammals, prairies, and many more.

## WHERE CAN I VOLUNTEER?

Your volunteer service can be completed at a variety of partner locations. Projects provide an opportunity for a sense of ownership and responsibility while addressing the needs of the community. Our projects and partners enhance the community's knowledge of how nature works, and build an awareness of local natural areas.



## Opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental teaching and interpretive tours for a variety of age groups
- 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