

THE MISSION OF THE CALIFORNIA NATURALIST PROGRAM IS TO FOSTER A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF NATURALISTS AND PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP OF CALIFORNIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH EDUCATION AND SERVICE.



What is the California Naturalist Program?

- A University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) statewide program and community of practice, supported through UC Cooperative Extension
- A 40-hour minimum community college level interdisciplinary science course that combines classroom and field learning, problem-solving, communication training and service
- Participants gain certification as California Naturalists after completing the course requirements plus optional four UC academic credits for an additional nominal fee
- Coursework includes ecology and watershed concepts, geology, wildlife, plant communities, energy resources, land use, citizen science, service learning, and tools for collaborative conservation and communication
- California Naturalists gain access to special places and people, and experience with the tools necessary to be active in stewardship and conservation, citizen science, education and interpretation, and environmental advocacy

How does it work?

- The California Naturalist Program forms partnerships with local organizations that have the interest and capacity to develop their own California Naturalist course, with our support
- Local organizations provide course instructor, a location for the course, and tailor curriculum to their unique area
- Local organizations may use the California Naturalist Program as their own docent training program, offer the course to the local community, or use the program as workforce training and education

California Naturalist supports the development of your unique program by providing:

A text-based curriculum · Diverse teaching materials · Completion pins and certificates · Instructor training and materials portal · Individual guidance as new programs develop · Quarterly statewide partner mentor calls · Volunteer management portal · Web-based information sharing · Rigorous course evaluation materials · Continuing education opportunities · Biennial statewide meetings · Peer reviewed publication series · Continuing engagement and volunteer incentives for certified Naturalists

Benefits to Partner Organizations:

- Financial support from program fees
- Informational website and online volunteer tracking tools
- 8-hour capstone service learning project requirement to support organizational goals
- Assistance promoting your organization's advanced trainings
- Well-trained volunteers to support and increase your organization's capacity
- Access to a statewide network of California Naturalists and partnering science institutions

For more information, please visit our website: <http://calnat.ucanr.edu/> or contact Brook Gamble, Community Education Specialist: bgamble@ucanr.edu (707) 744-1424 x108