

*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](mailto:bgamble@ucanr.edu) (707) 744-1424 x108