

**UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra
Natural Resources Program
California Naturalist Program**

Serving El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties

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**California Naturalist Central Sierra: Yosemite Immersion Class
Sunday, October 26 – Saturday, November 1, 2014
UC Merced Sierra Nevada Research Institute – Yosemite Field Station**

About the Course:

California Naturalist is a program developed by the University of California Cooperative Extension to foster eco-literacy and a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and citizen scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration.

For the first time, UCCE Central Sierra is delighted to be able to provide a week-long immersion training course that offers participants content specifically focused on the ecosystem linkages of the Sierra Nevada and specifically on Yosemite National Park. The course will take place in a residential setting at the field station. Lodging is included in the course fee and is a requirement for all participants since activities begin early each morning and continue through the evening hours. Participants may camp on the premises if preferred over sharing a cabin. The course fee also includes all lunches, five dinners and graduation brunch. Final meal details will be shared via email after you have registered.

The course consists of presentations and lively collaborative discussions about individual components of the ecosystem, including influences on and interconnections with the whole system. Led by scholars and professionals in their fields, these sessions introduce and expand on the roles and importance of each entity, using examples from Sierra communities while relating to California's unique ecology and natural history. Time in the field with researchers and professionals gives participants first-hand experiences in seeing nature from a scientist's perspective as well as an opportunity to interpret what they see to make meaning for themselves and others. In order to receive certification as a California Naturalist, participants are required to attend all presentations and mandatory field sessions.

Capstone Project

Certification as a California Naturalist requires that each participant plan and complete a [Capstone Project](#). Since time is limited during the week, participants in the immersion course will need to complete reading and homework assignments, in addition to planning a Capstone

Project, ahead of time. We will provide examples and guidance in developing your project after you have registered.

Participants may work individually or in teams to design and implement their Capstone Project. During the evenings of the course, students give a 5-15 minute oral presentation (depending on number of people in the group) describing their Capstone Project. This could be an interpreter-style presentation similar to one given leading a hike or field service project, or it could be a formal presentation, similar to delivery at a public hearing. A short list of presentation sources must be provided to the course coordinator.

Participation

The one-week Yosemite immersion course consists of required pre-coursework and full participation throughout the week. While each day is filled with new content and activities, the alternation of presentations, field sessions, and hands-on activities sets a comfortable pace with time for reflection and taking care of personal needs. The residential format allows participants to develop deeper connections with the area and fosters a sense of camaraderie with fellow participants.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Relate knowledge of natural history to becoming a naturalist and a Sierra Nevada/Yosemite National Park steward.
2. Integrate knowledge about the interconnectedness of abiotic and biotic factors (including human) and their influence on the natural history of the Sierra Nevada and Yosemite National Park.
3. Demonstrate skills in making and recording natural history observations in a field notebook.
4. Apply knowledge of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem to local and global environmental issues.
5. Understand and communicate the role of citizen science in informing the natural resources management decision making processes.

Volunteer Service:

After completing the California Naturalist Central Sierra training program, participants are expected to complete 40 hours of volunteer service relating to California's natural or environmental cultural history (stewardship, education/interpretation, citizen science or program support). Hours spent planning, developing and completing the Capstone Project count toward this 40-hour requirement. We provide information on local opportunities and students are encouraged to participate in and conduct activities with agencies within their own communities.

Naturalist Field Notebook:

Naturalists document their field observations with notes and sketches in a detailed Field Notebook. It is a course requirement to keep a Field Notebook during the course and hopefully beyond. Keeping a field notebook, and better yet a detailed field journal, is one of the best ways

of recording observations for future reflection and for fostering continued learning and development as an experienced naturalist. Participants also record observations in an online field data collection and social networking tool called iNaturalist.

Registration and Fees:

The course registration fee is \$700. Class size is limited to 25 participants. After September 1, there is an additional late registration fee of \$50. Fees include lodging, most meals, course instruction and field sessions, course textbook: The California Naturalist Handbook, graduation certificate, California Naturalist registration, website support and lapel pin. Students also need to provide a nature journal, which will be described in more detail after you register.

For an additional fee, Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) are available through UC Davis Extension to teachers and undergraduate students who successfully complete the course. If you desire CEUs, please speak to the course coordinator.

On-line registration can be accessed here: <http://ucanr.edu/uccecs-canaturalist-1weekimmersiontrainingreg>

Meeting Times and Location:

The California Naturalist Central Sierra Yosemite immersion class will meet at the Sierra Nevada Research Institute in Wawona Village, California—just inside the south entrance to Yosemite National Park—on Sunday afternoon, October 26. We will depart after brunch on Saturday, November 1, 2014.

Details about directions and what to pack will be emailed to you at a later date.

The course schedule is outlined below. Guest speakers will present information and lead discussions about specific topics. Field sessions correlate with each topic. Readings listed are from the California Naturalist Handbook, which is provided as part of the registration fee. Homework questions and assignments will be available at a later date.

California Naturalist Central Sierra Training: Course Syllabus - Draft
NOTE: CLASS MEETING DATES ARE SET; OTHER DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Day 1: Sunday, October 26

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.; No Lunch Served

Location: Sierra Nevada Research Institute (SNRI) Yosemite Field Station
7799 Chilnualna Falls Rd, Wawona Village, Fish Camp, CA 93623

Topic: Cabin Assignments; unpack and settle in

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Topic: **Welcome, Introduction to the California Naturalist Program; tour of SNRI**

Staff: Rebecca Miller-Cripps, UCCE Central Sierra; Cal Nat Training Coordinator
Becca Fenwick, UC Merced SNRI Field Station Director

Reading: Chapter 1, *Introduction to California Natural History and the World of Naturalists*

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Topic: **Potluck Dinner – Livingston House; details provided at a later time**

Staff: All participants

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: **Capstone Projects and Class Project**
Interpretation, Communication and Citizen Science

Staff: TBA, Interpretive Instructors

Reading: Chapter 8, *Interpretation, Communication, and Citizen Science*

Day 2: Monday, October 27

Prior to 9:00 a.m.

Topic: Breakfast (in order to keep registration costs down, please bring your own favorite breakfast food)
DIY lunch for the field (lunch materials provided as part of registration fee)

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon; Wawona classroom, then carpool to Glacier Point

Topic: **Geology, Soils and Climate**

Guest: Greg Stock, NPS Geologist

Reading: Chapter 2, *Geology, Climate, and Soils*

Mid-Day: Lunch in the Field

1:00 – 4:00 a.m.

Topic: **Water**

Guest: TBA

Reading: Chapter 3, *Water*

5:30 Dinner on the Deck; Bring your favorite grill food

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: Capstone Presentations/Homework/Discussion

Staff: Participants

Day 3: Tuesday, October 28

Breakfast/DIY lunch

9:00 – 12 noon

Topic: **Plants**

Guest: Garrett Dickman, YNP Biologist, Vegetation and Ecological Restoration

Reading: Chapter 4, *Plants*

Mid-Day: Lunch in the Field

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Guided Journaling Activity/iNaturalist

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Free time

6:00 Dinner (provided as part of registration fee); Livingston House

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: Capstone Presentations/Homework/Discussion

Staff: Participants

Day 4: Wednesday, October 29

Breakfast/DIY lunch

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Tour of Mariposa Grove of Big Trees

Guest: YNP Interpretive Staff

Mid-Day: Lunch in the Field

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Topic: **Animals/Wildlife**

Guest: TBA

Reading: Chapter 6, *Animals*

6:00 pm. Dinner: El Cid Mexican Restaurant (provided as part of registration)

8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: Capstone Presentations/Homework/Discussion
Staff: Participants

Day 5: Thursday, October 30

Breakfast/DIY lunch

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

TBA – Journaling, iNaturalist, Work on Capstone Projects

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Topic: **Forest, and Woodland Resources and Management/ Range Resources and Management**

Guests: Susie Kocher, Natural Resources Advisor & Registered Professional Forester, UCCE
Central Sierra

Reading: Chapter 5, *Forest, Woodland, and Range Resources and Management*

5:30 p.m. Dinner: Pizza at the Tenaya Lodge (tentative)

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: Capstone Presentations/Homework/Discussion
Staff: Participants

Day 6: Friday, October 31

Breakfast/DIY lunch

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Topic: **Energy and Global Environmental Issues**

Guest: TBA

Reading: Chapter 7, *Energy and Global Environmental Issues*

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Topic: **Animals/Wildlife (cont.)**

Guest: TBA

6:00 p.m. Dinner – TBA

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Topic: Capstone Presentations/Homework/Discussion
Staff: Participants

Day 7: Saturday, November 1

Pack, Clean Cabins

10:00 a.m.

Topic: **Graduation Brunch: Wawona Hotel Dining Room (tentative)**

Mid-Day Depart for home – safe travels!