

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (UC-ANR)
Environmental Stewards Program
California Naturalist Certification



The UC California Naturalist program promotes environmental literacy and stewardship through discovery and action. The program includes hands-on instruction and exposure to real-world environmental projects designed to inspire students to become active citizen scientists and enhance their personal connection with the natural world, as well as tools for collaborative conservation, problem solving, and communication.

A California Naturalist course needs both an approved partnering organization and a qualified instructor. There are criteria for partnering organizations and instructors to ensure that UC Environmental Stewards courses meet the standards of the program and UC Davis Extension. Partner organizations or agencies must have a proven-track-record of success delivering science-based environmental education and fill a service gap or provide additional access to the program. Instructors must have the combined science education and experience to successfully teach and coordinate a junior college level introductory science course.

Course Requirements -

To receive certification, every Naturalist will have:

- Read the entire California Naturalist handbook
- Have 40 or more hours of instruction to include several in-field learning opportunities with nature journaling.
- Participate in a Participatory Science Project
- Add at least 10 observations to the course's iNaturalist project
- Complete a Stewardship Project (8 hours) that falls within one of the following categories:
 - Community Resilience and Adaptation
 - Environmental and Climate Justice
 - Conservation and Restoration
 - Education and Interpretation
 - Participatory Science
 - Program Support

- Stewardship Project to be presented at the end of the course with a 5-minute presentation. The presentation format could include:
 - Oral presentation
 - Recorded video or audio
 - Artwork
 - Essay (750-word)

Certification Fees, Costs and Requirements-

\$110 fee per registered student to be remitted back to the California Naturalist Program. 50% fee reduction (\$55/participant) available for full-time students.

\$24.50 for the California Naturalist Handbook (when purchasing from UC Press).

Execute a collaboration agreement between the UC and partnering institution.