

# 2023 Indiana Master Naturalist Program Details

Indiana Master Naturalist (IMN) is a statewide program managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. IMN courses are presented throughout the state by various host organizations. The IMN course described in the document below is hosted by Ball State University and Red-tail Land Conservancy.



## IMN 2023 FAQ

### **> How big is the class?**

25 students

### **> What does the registration fee include?**

The \$125 fee includes all instruction, class materials, a notebook, a folder, and a field guide. Two scholarships are available that reduce the registration cost by \$50. Email Kelley V. Phillips for scholarship details at [Kelley@fortheland.org](mailto:Kelley@fortheland.org).

### **> Do I need to bring anything to class?**

You will be given your field guide, a folder with program materials, and a notebook at the start of class. Please bring your own pen or pencil. Please bring a water bottle, there is running water at the venue for refills. Pre-packaged snacks will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.

### **> Will I need to print anything?**

You are not responsible for printing anything on your own.

Most classes will have a PowerPoint presentation to supplement activities. At the first class, you will be given the option to have presentation materials printed out for you. If you select that option, you'll receive a paper copy of the presentation at the start of each class.

Digital copies of the presentation will go out to everyone before each class. Feel free to bring a laptop or tablet to view the presentation digitally instead of using a printed copy. Or, follow along in class by looking at the projector screen.

### **> Where are the meetings?**

All classes will take place at BSU's Nature Lab in Muncie. The River Ecology class will begin at Westside Park. Details are listed on the IMN schedule.

Ball State University's Environmental Education Classroom (Nature Lab): 2500 West University Avenue, Muncie, IN 47303. You can park anywhere in the parking lot so long as the spot does not say "service vehicles only." There is running water, flushing toilets, and electrical outlets.

Westside Park: Located on the corner of Tillotson Ave and White River Drive in Muncie. The entrance is across from S Celia Ave. The meeting will be at a picnic pavilion adjacent to the White River. A map will be provided in class.

**> What time does the class begin/end?**

Most classes begin at 6pm with a discussion about previous topics and warm-up exercises. The speaker's presentation will take place approximately 6:30pm-8:30pm. After the presentation, students will have time for Q&A, discussion, exploration, and to complete a short quiz. There will be at least one break during class. Some classes may end early.

The first and last class will begin at 5:30pm. This extra 30 minutes allows time for orientation and the final exam, respectively.

**> Do I need to attend all the classes?**

To graduate from the course, you must attend 80% of the classes, meaning you can only miss two classes. Please inform the organizers if you need to miss a class. There are options to make up missed classes, those will be reviewed during orientation.

**> Is there a final test?**

Yes. The final class will have a test based on previous quizzes.

**> Once the course ends, am I a Master Naturalist?**

No. Completing the course is the first step to be an Indiana Master Naturalist. You must also complete at least 24 volunteer hours.

Working on volunteer hours is not mandatory. You can just take the course to learn and have fun without working towards being a certified Indiana Master Naturalist.

**> Do I have to complete all my volunteer hours during the course?**

The 24-hour volunteer requirement can be completed with any natural resource organization at any time during or after the course ends. You will report that you've completed the hours to one of the course organizers and be mailed an IMN pin.

**> How can I complete my volunteer hours?**

Red-tail Land Conservancy and BSU Environmental Education Center will offer optional volunteer opportunities for IMN students during this class. You will hear about those opportunities in class. After the class, you are added to an IMN-only volunteer list and will receive emails about unique opportunities from Red-tail.

**> Contact**

Kelley V. Phillips, Communications & Outreach Manager

Red-tail Land Conservancy

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## **IMN 2023 Class Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Sept 7	5:30pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Program Orientation / Botany
Sept 14	6pm-9pm	Westside Park / Nature Lab	River Ecology
Sept 21	6pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Forestry
Sept 28	6pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Pollinators
Oct 5	6pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Soils & Geology
Oct 12	6pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Astronomy & Climate
Oct 19	6pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Interpretation (Storytelling)
Oct 26	6pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Mycology (Mushrooms)
Nov 2	6pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Bats
Nov 9	5:30pm-9pm	Nature Lab	Environmental Ethics / Final Exam

Topics are subject to change. Participants will be notified in advance.

## IMN 2023 Speakers

Date	Topic	Speaker
Sept 7	Botany	Erica Oliver, M.S. - Environmental Education Program Coordinator, Ball State University
Sept 14	River Ecology	Drew Holloway - Fisheries Biologist, Bureau of Water Quality
Sept 21	Forestry	John Taylor - Land Manager of Field Station, Ball State University
Sept 28	Pollinators	Stephanie Schuck - Executive Director, Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management
Oct 5	Soils & Geology	Dr. Jessi Haeft - Assist. Prof of Natural Resources & Environmental Mngmt, Ball State University
Oct 12	Astronomy Climate	Show Specialist, Charles W. Brown Planetarium Ball State University Hans Schmitz - Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator, Purdue University
Oct 19	Interpretation (Storytelling)	Kelley V. Phillips - Communications Manager & Certified Interpretive Guide, Red-tail Land Conservancy
Oct 26	Mycology (Mushrooms)	Cesar Gellido & Kaleb Stocker - Owners, MycoNauts
Nov 2	Bats	Dr. Tim Carter - Director of Field Station & Professor of Biology
Nov 9	Environmental Ethics	Dr. Jaime Coon - Assist. Prof of Biology & Environmental Sustainability, Earlham College



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