

Here are some of the things that volunteers have to say about Bernheim's Training-for-Naturalists Program:



"Sharing nature with people at Bernheim has renewed my sense of wonder that I thought I'd lost irretrievably as a child. No matter where you look, there's always a new secret waiting to be discovered at Bernheim. The more eyes that I share the view with, the more I can see."

"Volunteering is the highest paying job I've ever had, when you consider how it makes me feel about myself. The Training-for-Naturalists program is a ticket that takes you anywhere you want to go."

Bob Lenning

"I resonate with Bernheim's mission of connecting people with nature. I believe that it's those deep heart connections that make a difference in how we act towards the earth and each other. This is really important to me."

Virginia Bush



"Bernheim was a place of many marvelous childhood memories.... Now as a Volunteer Naturalist I can help other families create memories to last a lifetime. That makes me very happy!"

Cele Beckner

"So, I'm going to Alaska to work in a state park near Anchorage, as a Volunteer Natural History Interpreter. While planning my trip, I'm filled with gratitude for all I have gained and enjoyed from participating in Bernheim's Training-for-Naturalists program. I'm convinced I would not be making this trip to Alaska without my involvement as a Naturalist-in-Training."

"I invite anyone new to the program, or even to those of you just thinking about joining, go ahead, take the plunge and jump on in. You never know where the program might take you! Alaska bound, or anywhere else!"

Karen Kaye



Bernheim
ARBORETUM AND RESEARCH FOREST
P. O. Box 130
Clermont, KY 40110

In addition to all of the benefits of Bernheim's Training-for-Naturalists program, all Bernheim volunteers receive:

- ✿ 20% discount in Bernheim's gift shop.
- ✿ Free admission and a 10% discount at Isaac's Cafe for the day of your shift.
- ✿ Invitations to social events throughout the year.
- ✿ Our quarterly newsletter.
- ✿ And much more!

Volunteers giving 25 hours or more also receive:

- ✿ Two coupons good for up to \$10 off any Bernheim program.
- ✿ Notice at the recognition event and in the volunteer newsletter.
- ✿ One free admission for an annual outing.

Volunteers giving 75 hours or more also receive:

- ✿ Four additional coupons good for up to \$10 off any Bernheim program.

Volunteers who are also Bernheim members...

...giving over 25 hours annually also receive:

- ✿ All of the benefits of membership!
- ✿ Free training classes on natural history and more.

...giving 100 hours or more also receive:

- ✿ Unlimited, free (a minimum materials cost may apply) access to Forest Echo programs for day-of sign-ups, when space is available.

training -for- Naturalists

*"We cannot win
this battle
to save species
and environments
without forging
an emotional bond
between ourselves
and nature
as well —
we will not fight
to save what
we do not love."*

S.J. Gould



When was the last time you stopped to listen to the flute-like song of the wood thrush or learn the name of the frogs serenading from a nearby pond? How long has it been since you explored a creek looking for salamanders, crawdads and marveling at whirligig beetles? When did you last delight in the bracing fragrance of spicebush leaves or in learning the name and the story of a new wildflower? While these experiences were once part of daily living for many, they are disappearing from modern life at an alarming rate. Writer and naturalist Robert Michael Pyle suggests that the depletion of encounters with other species amounts to "an extinction of experience," one that not only threatens neighborhood species but also human perception of the natural world.

Bernheim's Training-for-Naturalists program is a volunteer effort to help individuals recover these experiences in their own lives while learning effective ways to share the knowledge, wonder and love that such experience provides.

To find out more about the Training-for-Naturalists program, how to get started, or when the next orientation is scheduled, call Wren Smith, Interpretive Programs Manager, at (502) 955-8512 extension 227 or email wren@bernheim.org.



Bernheim
ARBORETUM AND RESEARCH FOREST



Bernheim's training -for- Naturalists

Since first-hand experiences with the natural world are disappearing, the need to train naturalists who can help others connect with nature has never been greater. Bernheim offers a unique training that operates on the premise that knowledge becomes yours the more you give it away. Bernheim's Training-for-Naturalists program provides an in-depth nature based experience that is distinctive in the following ways:

- ❁ **Interpretive training is key to our approach. This provides you the skills to help visitors forge deeper emotional and intellectual connections with the natural world.** The manager of Bernheim's Training-for-Naturalists program is a Certified Interpretive Trainer for the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). Interpretive training enhances communication skills and can open up new options personally and professionally.
- ❁ **Bernheim's Training-for-Naturalists program provides on-going mentoring opportunities woven directly into course work.** Because none of us can master nature and our training is never complete, this mentoring provides a meaningful context that accelerates learning.
- ❁ **Our training operates on the premise that information without inspiration seldom changes our relationship with the world.** All training classes contain some field work and group interactions and are designed to inspire as well as inform.
- ❁ **Bernheim's training is free to members.** See the back of the brochure for other benefits.
- ❁ **Bernheim's Training for Naturalists program offers two pathways of involvement:** You can apply for the more intensive Naturalists-in-Training pathway or the less intensive Naturalist Apprentice. Both are provided in a flexible schedule that fits busy lives.



Naturalist-in-Training Pathway

Bernheim's Naturalist-in-Training fosters knowledge, encourages wonder and cultivates community.

If you love learning about the natural world and are equally passionate about sharing what you learn, then this training may be for you. Attend the next Naturalist-in-Training orientation, fill out an application and interview with the Interpretive Programs Manager. Once accepted into this program, you will receive in-depth training in a learning environment that is engaging, non-threatening and supportive.

Benefits of Bernheim's Naturalist-in-Training pathway:

- ❁ Specialized interpretive training including courses on the art and science of interpretation.
 - ❁ Training in a broad spectrum of nature related areas which encompass core courses and dozens of informal trainings. Each course includes a syllabus with homework and other supportive training opportunities and field trips.
 - ❁ On-the-job, highly mentored training and public service opportunities.
 - ❁ A community of individuals linked by love of nature and a spirit of generosity.
 - ❁ Access to a variety of Bernheim resources including a library, research forest, experienced staff and more.
 - ❁ Informal learning opportunities such as road trips, potluck dinners and peer led hikes.
 - ❁ All the benefits of Bernheim membership.
- Requirements:
- ❁ Yearly Bernheim membership.
 - ❁ An average of 5 hours a month of training /public service in one of the many public service areas at Bernheim and in the community.

Naturalist Apprentice Pathway

If you love sharing what you learn with the public and enjoy an on-the-job, informal learning environment this may be the pathway for you. Attend the next orientation to find out how a Naturalist Apprentice uses a variety of resources, nature related materials, activities and crafts to inform and delight visitors at a variety of public service areas at Bernheim.

- Requirements:
- ❁ An average of 3 hours a month volunteering at a public service area.



Certifications and Recognitions

Bernheim Certified Naturalists

Once you have completed all the requirements of the Naturalist-in-Training position you are eligible for certification as a Bernheim Certified Naturalist. This certification will attest to your hard work, basic knowledge of the regions natural history, and your commitment to effectively sharing your knowledge.

Bernheim Naturalist Leader

Bernheim Naturalist Leader is a special designation for those who are nominated by their peers and selected by Bernheim's interpretive staff for outstanding leadership contributions to Bernheim's Training-for-Naturalists program.

National Association of Interpretation (NAI), Certified Interpretive Guide

In conjunction with NAI, Bernheim offers a 32-hour professional certification program to recognize individuals who exhibit knowledge and skills necessary to assure quality interpretive experiences to all audiences.



Public Service Areas

Whether you decide to enroll in the Naturalist-in-Training program or volunteer as a Naturalist Apprentice, you can learn more about the natural world and share what you've learned with individuals, families, youth and adult groups. Choose one or more of the following public service areas:



- ❁ **Discovery Stations & Mobile Labs** – These innovative resources help connect visitors to nature at Bernheim and beyond.
- ❁ **Firetower** – An "office tower" with a view of the knobs and Bernheim's research forest.
- ❁ **Visitor Center** – The region's most ecofriendly building helps people understand the beauty and benefits of green architecture.

- ❁ **Trails** - Over 35 miles of trails entice learning and discovery!
- ❁ **Canopy Tree Walk** – A 75-foot perch in the forest canopy provides a unique point of view.
- ❁ **Wildlife Viewing Room** – An all season room that helps visitors experience birds and other wildlife close-up.
- ❁ **Nature Inspired Art & Crafts** – Connect visitors to Bernheim's changing collection of nature inspired art or help children make simple nature crafts.
- ❁ **Bus tours and other visiting groups**
- ❁ **Community outreach**

