

Steps for Enrollment

1. Volunteers are required to attend a position specific orientation or a one-on-one interview with Joe Yurt (Naturalist Apprentice, Nature Craft Guides, and Fire Tower Guides) or Wren Smith (Visitor Center Host and Naturalist-in-Training).
2. For those entering into the Naturalist-in-Training pathway, become a Bernheim member.
3. Complete the attached volunteer application and return it to Volunteer Department, Bernheim, P.O. Box 130, Clermont, KY, 40110.
4. You will be contacted by an Education Department staff member to inform you of your status in the program and schedule you for your first training class(es).

GETTING STARTED (once enrolled):

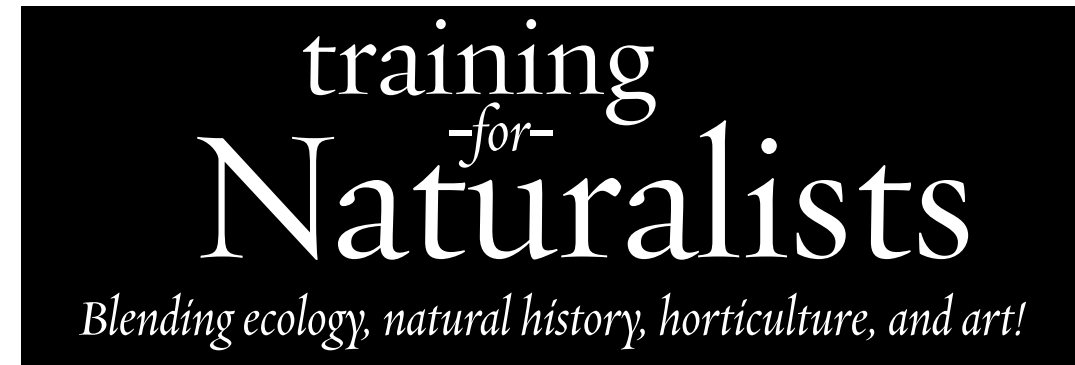
- ✿ Select and schedule training dates for your specific volunteer job(s): Nature Craft Guide, Fire Tower Guide, Visitor Center Host and/or Naturalist Apprentice.
- ✿ Complete at least 25 hours of PUBtime in your first 12 month period as a volunteer.

Those choosing the Naturalist-in-Training position complete the following within the first year of enrollment:

- ✿ Complete INTRP (Interpretation) 101, 102, and 200 courses.
- ✿ Complete at least one BFUN (Bernheim Fundamental) course which includes PUBtime, reflective study, and classes. You may be working toward completion of no more than three BFUN classes at one time.

ON-GOING REQUIREMENTS:

- ✿ Maintain at least 25 hours of PUBtime annually.
- ✿ Complete a volunteer evaluation form (sent in the winter volunteer newsletter).
- ✿ Sign up for all training courses and PUBtime at least three days prior to attendance.
- ✿ Track all of your hours and course work completion in the book located in the Volunteer Room at the Education Center.
- ✿ Naturalist-in-Training must maintain an active Bernheim membership.
- ✿ Naturalist-in-Training must attend two potluck trainings annually.
- ✿ Bernheim Certified Naturalists must recertify every two years and work with others to prepare for certification if they wish to maintain their certification.



Do you enjoy learning about history, horticulture, and our natural world? Would you like the opportunity to have a life-long impact on how individuals perceive the world around them? Are you passionate about plants, animals, gardening, or art?

If so, consider joining our Training-for-Naturalist program! We seek to develop a community of knowledgeable and inspired individuals who are dedicated to becoming informed about the local environment and willing to contribute time and energy toward Bernheim's mission of connecting people to nature.



Process, Content, and Reflection

The Training-for-Naturalist program operates on three simple premises:

1. Process

We learn best by doing, by being actively engaged, hence the program emphasizes service as an effective learning strategy. In the context of this program, service means sharing what you learn with Bernheim visitors.

2. Content

We "will not fight to save what we do not love," and we tend to love that which we understand. Therefore, the program emphasizes learning about our region's native flora and fauna, as well as horticultural selections that are suitable for this region, and nature-inspired art.

3. Reflection

An intimate knowledge of the local landscape and the natural cycles that sustain humans and other life forms can be a springboard into greater global ecological understanding.

Our Training-for-Naturalist program seeks to develop ecological learners and leaders for Bernheim and beyond.

“the training”

When applying for the Training-for-Naturalist program you are committing to three interpretation courses (INTRP 101, 102, and 200) and a set of six fundamental courses (BFUN 100, 201-5) which all involve a series of interactions with the public (Process), training requirements (Content), and homework assignments (Reflection). Each course may take a couple of months to complete – so do not expect to get through the program too quickly; the focus is on quality, not quantity.

The program is designed to be flexible with your schedule. The bulk of training classes are offered on Saturday mornings and Wednesday nights – many opportunities are offered to interact with the public. Depending on you, the Naturalist-in-Training level can be completed in one year with intensive involvement, but will most likely take two years with a commitment of 10 hours a month to get to the next level. You may work at a slower pace and stay active in the program as long as you are able to keep a minimum annual commitment of 25 hours as a Nature Craft Guide, Fire Tower Guide, or Naturalist Apprentice.

Brief course descriptions are listed below with a tentatively scheduled start date – dates will be confirmed approximately three months in advance of the program date.

INTRP 101: Introduction to Interpretation

First Saturday in March, Second Saturday in June (9 a.m.–Noon)

What is interpretation? Why should we use an interpretive approach? What are the important ingredients of an interpretive program, hike or demonstration? What are some of the resources supporting the interpretive approach? These and many other questions will be addressed in this workshop.

INTRP 102: Applied Interpretation

First Saturday in March, Second Saturday in June (1–4 p.m.)

This course will explore how to create a magical, interpretive experience by melding concerns for various audiences with specific sites and program logistics. INTRP 101 is a prerequisite.

INTRP 200: Interpretation Along the Trail

First Saturday in November (9 a.m.–Noon)

This course explores some of the techniques for leading successful interpretive hikes along a trail. It also examines some of the pitfalls to avoid. This course will be offered in May and November.

INTRP 290: Naturalist Potluck

Second Wednesday (6–9 p.m.) of odd months

Naturalist pot lucks provide one of the best ways for getting to know others in the program and sharing ideas, projects, and enthusiasm. Pot lucks will be offered every second Wednesday (6:00 if participating in the potluck dinner; interpretive training 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.) every odd month (i.e. January, March, May, etc.). Participants at all levels are encouraged to come to as many of these as possible.

Informal Training Opportunities (ITO)

Dates published quarterly

ITO experiences are a segue to interpretation with the public. They support the BFUN courses by giving you the opportunity to see content and interpretation demonstrated with a public audience. The broad subjects will follow the BFUN courses. However, the subjects will be more specific – for example: snakes, wildflowers, art, etc.

BFUN 100: About Bernheim

First Saturday in February, Third Saturday in March (9 a.m.–Noon)

This course provides a great overview of the history,

philosophy and general information concerning Bernheim. It also includes information about Bernheim's features (the arboretum, fire tower, sustainability, the Big Prairie etc.), policies, and frequently asked visitor questions.

BFUN 201: Trees at Bernheim

Second Saturday (9 a.m.–Noon) of August

This course provides an overview of the trees in the Arboretum (collections, research and outstanding specimens and some of their fascinating stories) and an overview of Bernheim's natural forest communities. Some of the more prominent and interesting trees and their ecological importance may be highlighted, as well as some of the research and restoration projects that Bernheim is undertaking.

BFUN 202: Plants at Bernheim

Second Saturday (9 a.m.–Noon) of April

This course provides an overview of plants as it pertains to horticulture (both native and ornamental) and ways to use plants to build an interpretive bridge with our visitors.

BFUN 203: Special Projects

Second Saturday (9 a.m.–Noon) of December

This course provides an overview of design and research involved in developing non-personal interpretation. Your involvement with Special Projects will help you integrate the content you are learning.

BFUN 204: Wildlife at Bernheim

Second Saturday (9 a.m.–Noon) of May

This course provides an overview of an array of wildlife topics (focuses) that address general questions, interest and misconceptions concerning Bernheim's wildlife; as well as ways to engage visitors.

BFUN 205: Principals of Ecology

Second Saturday (9 a.m.–Noon) of December

This course is designed to provide a broad and general

background on ecological principals. Our aim is to help you understand how the separate content areas are not separate at all but all interwoven into principles that once understood can guide our thinking and actions. Course includes a glossary and key concepts (such as energy flow, carrying capacity, symbiosis, habitats, ecosystems, etc.) as well as opportunities for applying these in our interpretive efforts.

PUBLIC TIME (PUBTime)

7 days a week

Learning-by-doing is a key component of understanding how to share what you're learning with others in a way that is relevant, pleasurable, and memorable. New volunteers can apply acquired skills at the Fire Tower, with nature craft activities, Visitor Center, or nature exploration stations:

- ✿ **Fire Tower Guides** greet and talk informally with visitors from all over the globe on Saturdays or Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Initial orientation is offered the last weekend of March through September.
- ✿ **Nature Craft Guides** help children and adults connect with nature through a variety of nature inspired craft activities on Saturdays or Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or with scheduled groups during the week. Initial orientation is offered on the first Saturday of each month from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- ✿ **Nature Explorers** use a variety of resources to inform and entertain visitors at informal “Exploration Stations.” Opportunities are available on Saturdays or Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. or with scheduled groups during the week. Initial orientation and informal trainings are offered the first Saturday of each month from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- ✿ **Visitor Center Hosts** greet visitors on weekends and weekdays with informal interpretive talks, walks and demonstrations to help visitors better consider future generations in all we do. Volunteers must attend a Visitor Center Host training (offered seasonally) which will include an interview to determine if this position is right for you.

More experienced volunteers will lead a variety of activities (hikes, walks, etc.) and mentor new volunteers. Opportunities to work with diverse youth and adult audiences is available.