

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Syllabus, Summit County

Educators

Maggie Rivera
Agriculture and Natural Resource Educator
OSU Extension Summit County
440 Vernon Odom Blvd.,
Akron OH 44307

Direct 234-226-6633
Office 330-928-4769
Email: Rivera.482@osu.edu
Office Hours: Thursday 2:30pm to 3:30pm
generally, but make an appointment if coming
into the office.

Dr. Lara Roketenetz,
Field Station Director
4240 Ira Rd,
Akron, OH 44333

Direct 330-972-7502
Email: Ldr11@uakron.edu

Course Description

This course is designed to build your knowledge of Ohio's diverse ecology and natural resources, best education practices, field skills, and understanding of how to contribute to community science and land stewardship. It will cover all the topics included in the OCVN Training Manual. This course & training is part of a larger volunteer program that participants may choose to continue with; this includes volunteer service and continued education.

Course Goals

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Describe key elements of Ohio's ecology (e.g., major habitats and the concept of life-cycle ecology) and the state's importance to global conservation of flora and fauna.
- Participate in community science and stewardship efforts in Ohio that will increase scientific understanding and conservation of Ohio's environment and natural resources.
- Communicate about Ohio's environment and natural resources using best education practices.

Class Structure

Reference the schedule for class start times, please do not arrive late. In fact, if you can, please arrive 10 mins early to sign in, get settled, and find your seat. If you will need a meal during class times, please bring your own lunch or dinner. Some light snacks may be provided, we will discuss this further at the first class. A 30-minute lunch break will take place on Saturdays. For Thursday evening classes there will be no break, but you are welcome to eat when you need.

Buckeyes and Zips are green! Please try to recycle all discarded materials from class and snacks in the recycling bins provided. Compost can go in the green bowl.

Slide presentations from educators will be made available to the class online through the OSU website if they choose to share. Participants can then choose to save or print.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend every class session, but we understand that life happens! You are responsible for notifying the instructor in advance and initiating provisions to make up for any missed sessions. Make-up work will involve doing some outside reading and taking a chapter quiz and working on it until you receive 100% correct. If you miss more than 2 classes, it will trigger a discussion between the Educators and you about the feasibility of completing the training.

Manual and materials

The OCVN Manual is our textbook for this course and will be an invaluable resource for your work as a OCN Volunteer. Please be careful with the manual, if you misplace it can be replaced/reordered, however, you will be responsible for the cost of the replacement.

Homework, Testing & Grading

You will be responsible for reading the corresponding chapters before the related class, this is the only homework involved in the class.

Testing will include a final. The final exam will be a combination of content questions, mostly multiple choice. The final will be a take-home & open book exam; the final exam will help the instructor determine whether you pass the OCVN course.

Final project

Everyone will be responsible for a final project which follows the format of a National Association for Interpretation presentation. You will be responsible for completing a "program outline" and then presenting your topic with or without technology for 5-7 minutes (plus questions and transition time of about 3 minutes).

It is your choice what topic you would like to focus on but please get your topic approved with Lara and Maggie in advance so we don't have any overlap between students.

Study Groups and Mentors

Study groups can be formed in any way that is convenient and comfortable for the participants. Participation in a study group is not required. Office space (conference room) can be reserved for study groups during business hours. City and County libraries are great locations for evening and Saturday studying.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations if needed. If you believe you need accommodations, please contact the ANR educator, Maggie Rivera by phone, email or during office hours as soon as possible. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.