



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Conservation Training Center

Training Announcement

Compass to Nature: Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom

Training Description

This distance learning series features the innovative Compass to Nature, a proven-effective method to teaching outdoors. Just as a navigational compass enables us to guide our way outside, the Compass to Nature provides unfailing direction for all who seek to lead others in the development of a caring relationship with the world we live in.

Join us as we explore the four cardinal directions for the Compass to Nature: place-based education, phenology, journals, and naturalists, plus the magnetic force of the sense of wonder, through indoor presentations and outdoor field exercises to build or enhance your skills. We will also examine impact to teachers, students, and families; school curriculum and academic standards; and distance education options for outdoor classrooms. The series will culminate with the opportunity to reflect, plan, and share how you can apply the Compass to Nature to your site.

The C2N grew from the internationally-recognized Prairie Science Class partnership at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, part of the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District in Minnesota. Your presenters are Mona Davis, Fergus Falls Public Schools 4th grade Prairie Science Class teacher and Molly Stoddard, Instructional Systems Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Photo Credit:
Molly Stoddard/USFWS

Objectives

Upon completion of this training, you will be able to:

1. Recognize the C2N as an approach to teaching outdoors (not an activity guide); name and define each of the 5 parts of C2N (place, phenology, naturalists, journals and wonder)
2. Build or enhance skills in leading students in the Top 10 Field Activities of the C2N
3. Describe three impacts of regular, repeated outdoor classroom use by the same students
4. Integrate regular outdoor classroom use with existing curriculum and academic standards
5. Consider options for adapting outdoor classroom use for distance learning scenarios
6. Reflect on current and future teaching practice and plan to apply at least one aspect of the C2N to your own school or site
7. Begin using the C2N at your own home site

Date

June 9 - July 21, 2021

Session 1: June 9
Session 2: June 16
Session 3: June 23
Session 4: June 30
Session 5: July 7
Session 6: July 14
Session 7: July 21

All sessions are 3 - 5 PM EST/ 2 - 4 PM CST. This is a series, please register for all events. (See below)

Location

On-line via WebEx.

Who Should Attend

Formal and Nonformal Educators, and all others engaging with students and the public. We encourage Service educators/staff to team up with a teacher and work through this series together.

Length

2 hours

To Register

[https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?](https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/onstage/g.php?PRID=de17298df5335f92795bf571731be0a5)
PRID=de17298df5335f92795bf571731be0a5

Contact

Michelle Donlan, 304/876-7685, or by email, michelle_donlan@fws.gov

Reasonable Accommodation

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this training for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, close captioning, or other accommodation needs to Michelle Donlan, michelle_donlan@fws.gov or TTY 800-877-8339