

## Certification Requirements

**To become an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, you must:**

- ✓ Complete 40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction
- ✓ Perform 40 hours of approved volunteer service within the first year
- ✓ After certification, 20 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training are required annually



## OCVN Training

The course sessions are taught by faculty and staff with The Ohio State University along with conservation and naturalist professionals throughout Ohio.

Topics include:

- Soil, Geology and Watersheds
- Ecology and Stewardship
- Botany & Forests
- Entomology & Herpetology
- Ornithology & Mammals
- Working with the public & communication skills

You will learn how to contribute to community science efforts, restore and protect critical habitats, and communicate effectively about Ohio's environment while exploring parks and natural areas near you.



## Application Process

**We accept applications year-round for training program. Our next anticipated class will be in early 2024.**

- Spaces in the class will be viewed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Class size is limited to 30 participants.
- You must be at least 18 years old to apply.

The registration fee for 2023 was \$225.00 and due within two weeks of admission to the program. The price includes a binder manual, additional handouts, state fees and related costs for conducting the program. Fees for 2024 are TBD.

To learn more contact OSU Extension in Mahoning County: 330-533-5538 or visit: [go.osu.edu/ocvnmahoning](http://go.osu.edu/ocvnmahoning)



The mission of the **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN)** program is to build awareness of Ohio's environment and natural resources through science-based education and community stewardship.

The OCVNs role is to support partners as their volunteer in meeting the needs of our citizens in the area of natural resources education.

**Activities Include:**

- Identifying and educating the public about invasive species
- Diagnosing plant problems
- Giving public presentations relating to nature
- Hosting events for the public
- Staffing educational booths and other various opportunities



If you have a strong interest in nature and enjoy helping others, you are invited to apply to become an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

**Program Benefits:**

- Learn about the biology, ecology and natural history of Ohio from many of the state's leading experts.
- Become part of a local and statewide network of dedicated volunteers.
- Apply your talents and passion to protecting, restoring and understanding Ohio's natural treasures.

## Our OCVN Partners

Beaver Township Nature Preserve  
Beaver Creek Wildlife Education Center  
Ford Nature Center at Mill Creek MetroParks  
Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center  
Northeast Ohio Forestry Association  
Trumbull County Metroparks  
Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center

### Mahoning County Extension Office

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@MahoningExtension

[mahoning.osu.edu](http://mahoning.osu.edu)

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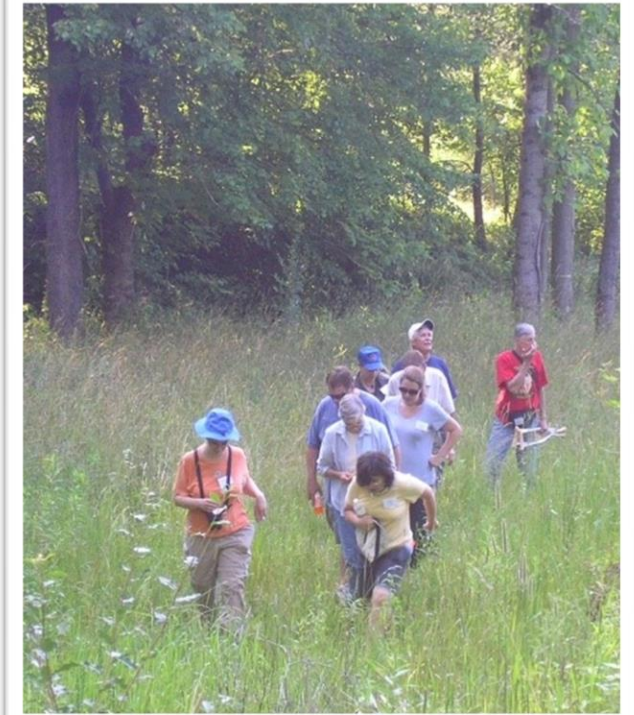
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Mahoning County

# Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION