



Freshwater Systems Course Description

Program Mission and Overview

The mission of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (**FMNP**) is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world among Florida's citizens and visitors.

FMNP participants will increase their knowledge of Florida's natural systems, of the plants and animals that depend upon those systems, and of the role of humankind in shaping our past, of determining our future, and as stewards of the land.

The objective of the Florida Master Naturalist Program is to prepare persons to share their knowledge with others, to act in a positive manner, to help others feel a greater connection to the land/sea and to help others to develop their own personal environmental ethics. We hope to initiate what is for many a life-long process of learning, of observation, and of sharing with others.

Freshwater Systems Course Overview

Through classroom, field trip, and practical experience, this Module provides instruction on the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife, and conservation issues of Freshwater Systems in Florida - Marshes, Swamps, and Permanent Wetlands (Lakes, Rivers, Springs, and Streams). The program also addresses society's role in wetlands, develops naturalist interpretation skills, and discusses environmental ethics.

The total training consists of **40 contact hours**, the scheduling of which will vary among different Instructors. The only requirements of students are enthusiasm, attendance, and completion of group final projects. There is no comprehensive examination required. Classroom learning includes four instructional videos and 12 presentations. Outside of the classroom (virtual or in-person), participants will engage in hands-on field activities related to the course units.

FMNP Freshwater Systems Video & Presentation Series:

Videos	Presentations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida's Freshwater Marshes Florida's Freshwater Swamps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Ecology of Freshwater Systems Herbaceous Vegetation of Freshwater Systems

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida's Permanent Wetlands (lakes, streams, springs, rivers) • Wetlands in the Modern Human Landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterbirds of Freshwater Systems • Woody Vegetation of Freshwater Systems • General Birds of Freshwater Systems • Mammals of Freshwater Systems • Amphibians of Freshwater Systems • Reptiles of Freshwater Systems • Fish of Freshwater Systems • Invertebrates of Freshwater Systems • Environmental Ethics • Naturalist Interpretation
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What will Florida Master Naturalist Program graduates receive?

At the end of the course, student will receive their Certification of Course Completion and be included in the online FMNP Graduate Database. Upon course completion, student also will receive FMNP embroidered patch and course-specific lapel pin.

Note: FMNP course manual (covering course-specific ecological systems, habitats, plant and animal life, naturalist interpretation, outreach planning, and additional resources and sources of information) becomes the property of the student.