

Partner with UC Environmental Stewards

The mission of UC Environmental Stewards is to foster a diverse community of naturalists and promote stewardship of California's natural resources through education and space.



UC Environmental Stewards is a University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) statewide program and community of practice, supported through UC Cooperative Extension and delivered by partnering organizations. Climate Stewards and California Naturalists gain access to special places and people, and experience with the tools necessary to be active in stewardship & conservation; citizen/participatory science; education & interpretation; community resilience & adaptation and environmental & climate justice.

General overview of the program:

- A 40-hour minimum community college level interdisciplinary science course that combines classroom and field learning, problem-solving, communication training and service
- Participants gain certification as either California Naturalists or Climate Stewards after completing the named course requirements plus optional 4 UC academic credits for an additional nominal fee
- Climate Stewards and California Naturalist courses use education and service to inspire and empower individuals to create more sustainable and resilient communities and ecosystems

How does it work if I'm an interested organization?

- UC Environmental Stewards forms partnerships with local organizations that have the interest and capacity to develop their own Climate Stewards and or California Naturalist course, with our support
- Local organizations provide course instructor, a location for the course, and tailor curriculum to their unique area
- Local organizations may use an Environmental Stewards course as their own docent training program, offer the course to the local community, or use the program as workforce training and education

How does it provide the development of my own program?

UC Environmental Stewards provides curriculum, teaching materials, certification pins and certificates, Instructor training and administrative resource templates, Individual guidance as new programs develop, Quarterly statewide Instructor calls, Volunteer management portal, Web-based information sharing, Rigorous course evaluation materials, Continuing education opportunities, Biennial statewide meetings, Peer reviewed publication series, Continuing engagement and volunteer incentives for certified Stewards and Naturalists

How does it benefit partner organizations?

Further organizational goals, Financial support from program fees, Informational website, Online volunteer tracking tools, Service-learning stewardship project requirement designed to support organizational goals, Assistance promoting your organization's advanced trainings, Well-trained volunteers to support and increase your organization's capacity, Access to a statewide network of Climate Stewards and California Naturalists, Resources of University of California resources and partnering science institutions