

# UC Climate Stewards Course

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## Instructor

Liese Murphree

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## Course Start & End

09/02/23 - 11/06/23

## UC Climate Stewards Website

<https://calnat.ucanr.edu/cs/>

## Registration

<https://www.pgmuseum.org/california-naturalist>

## Course Fee

\$450

Scholarships available  
Member and partner  
organization discounts available

## Course Location

Online and Field Sites

## Course Schedule

Wednesdays 6:00-8:00PM online  
Saturdays 9:00AM-1:00PM In-  
person field trips on  
Alternate Saturdays

## Course Overview

**General.** The UC Climate Stewards seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteers ready to effectively engage in transformative local solutions to promote community and ecosystem resilience in a changing climate. The UC Climate Stewards course will introduce you to social-emotional resilience and trauma-aware practices, climate change communication, climate science, and community resilience planning. The course will combine communication, engagement, and science curricula with guest presenters, hands-on activities, field trips, and project-based learning to immerse you in the dynamics of your local community.

This UC Climate Stewards Course will focus on the **Carmel and Salinas River Watersheds.**

## Learning Outcomes

- Increase access to up-to-date and locally relevant climate science to improve climate literacy
- Improve participants' self-efficacy and agency by fostering climate change communications skills development, civic engagement, and local conservation and community action
- Establish an inclusive community of practice focused on stewardship, communication, and community solutions to advance resiliency
- Build statewide support and capacity to effectively advance state and local climate goals
- Meet all of the course requirements

## Course Requirements

- **Contact Time:** Each UC Climate Stewards course consists of a minimum of 40 educational hours (online, classroom, and field time), which includes a minimum of 12 hours in the field.
- **Required Reading and Online Work:** Read the entire UC Climate Stewards Handbook, complete six (6) online course modules, and complete assigned homework. Participants are asked to complete homework assignments in

their journal prior to the class meeting or field trip. These assignments give us a place to start discussion in class and will be the basis for hands-on and group activities. These assignments do not need to be turned in and will not be evaluated. However, participants will share their work with their classmates.

- **Class Attendance and Field Trips:** Participants must attend all classes and field trips. Up to 2 classes can be made up by viewing the class recording and completing the class activities. Up to 1 field trip can be made up by completing the activities in the make-up field trip.
- **Stewardship Project:** Participants are required to complete a Stewardship Project in one of six areas: Community Resilience and Adaptation, Environmental and Climate Justice, Conservation/Restoration (Stewardship), Participatory Science, Education/Interpretation, or Program Support. The Stewardship Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with the in-class material toward the development of an applied work project done in conjunction with a community organization. Participants must get pre-approval for Stewardship Projects in the first two weeks of the course. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will deliver an individual or group capstone presentation (3 minutes long per person) on graduation day. Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours on the capstone project and will add hours spent on the Stewardship Project into the volunteer portal.
- **Class Community Science Project:** Each participant must contribute to the community science project adopted by the class.
- **Evaluation:** Completion of the online post-course evaluation survey is critical for the ongoing success and improvement of the course. You will be provided with a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.

### Required Text and Materials

- Climate Stewardship: Taking Collective Action to Protect California, *Brendan Buhler and Adina Merenlender*. (Must be purchased by the participants.)
- Access to internet connected computer or phone and an email account for communication and Volunteer Portal access. *Please notify the instructor immediately if you do not have an email account.*
- Journal or notebook to record class notes as well as homework, class, and field activities

### Recommended supplemental resources

- The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change, *Robert Henson*.
- **CalNat YouTube Channel:** View videos from UC Climate Stewards conferences, meetings, and more.  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg>
- **CalNat Mapping Tool:** UC California Naturalist Program provides a GIS-based map-producing tool you can use for both content delivery and logistics. Choose from multiple base maps and layers to explore bioregions, compare and contrast field sites, create maps to field trips and capstone projects and more.  
[http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/CalNat\\_Maps/](http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/CalNat_Maps/)

### Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal

Volunteering: Participants are encouraged to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service each year. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal, and the pin designs differ from year to year.

- Volunteer activities must relate to climate communication, education, interpretation, mitigation, adaptation, or community or ecosystem resilience, occur in California, be sponsored by an organization, and be unpaid or part of a subsidized workforce development program (e.g., CCC, NFF, Americorps).
- Your 8-hour capstone project will count toward your first year's volunteer hours. You will log these hours into the UC Volunteer Portal. A welcome email will be sent to you after instructors add your information to the system.

Notify your instructor if you do not receive that email. You will be provided with a username and password in the introductory email after the start of the class. The portal website is <https://vms4.ucanr.edu/>.

- There are resources available to help you familiarize with the UC CalNat/Climate Stewards volunteer portal and commonly used features. Check out our help guides and videos geared toward users and program administrators.   
*Url:* [http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP\\_Help/](http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP_Help/)
- Participants creating capstone projects that contribute to PGMNH should also log their hours with the PG Museum Volunteer Coordinator, [Johnston@PGMuseum.org](mailto:Johnston@PGMuseum.org).

### Canvas Online Platform

Course assignments and materials will be distributed through the UC ANR Canvas Portal. A login for the portal will be provided one week prior to the first class. Some assignments will involve reading or viewing a video, others will require written reflection or posting to the class discussion. Participants will engage in activities to get familiar with this platform on the first day of class.

### Course Credit

Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for academic credits through UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education for an additional nominal fee. Graduates who expressed interest in this opportunity with their instructor will receive a communication from the UC California Naturalist Program post-course with information on how to obtain the optional credits.

### Cancellation Policy

Registrants may cancel up to two weeks before the first day of instruction for a full refund, minus a \$50 administrative fee. Registrants that cancel in the period two weeks of the beginning of instruction, up to 1 week after instruction has begun may re-enroll in the following year's course at a 50% discounted rate, with priority for early registration. Cancellation at any other time will not result in a refund.

### Instructional Methods

The course will integrate a range of instructional methods including online modules, presentations, peer-to-peer discussion, small group activities, hands-on and inquiry-based activities, experiential learning. Every effort will be made to accommodate diverse learning styles and needs. If you have a particular physical or learning need, please communicate with the instructor prior to the start of the course. Materials will be available in alternate formats (Braille, audio, electronic format, or large print) if requested 30 days ahead of the start of the course.

### Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost

Students are responsible for course fees, purchasing books, and transportation for the field trips and community science project. Full time students working towards a career in environmental science research, education, interpretation, or advocacy, or individuals in their first two years of employment in one of these fields may apply for a scholarship for up to 50% of the course fee. Volunteers of PGMNH are eligible for a 20% discount. Staff members of other environmental and natural history organizations may qualify for a 20% discount. And members of PGMNH qualify for a 10% discount. Write to the course instructor, [Murphree@PGMuseum.org](mailto:Murphree@PGMuseum.org), for information on scholarships and discounts.

### Class Schedule

Meeting	Date	Topics and Speakers
Class 1	09/04	Unit 0 - Introduction

Field Trip 1		Climate Impacts - Birds, Butterflies, and Bat Stars
Class 2	09/11	Unit I – Community Connections
Field Trip 2		Partnering for Resilience
Class 3	09/18	Unit II – Interpretation/Communication/Education
Class 4	09/25	Unit II – Practicum Unit III – Climate in Context, Part 1 - Climate Systems (Week 1)
Field Trip 3		Researching Ecological Adaptation Strategies
Class 5	10/02	Unit III – Climate in Context, Part 1 - Climate Systems (Week 2)
Class 6	10/09	Unit IV – Climate in Context, Part 2 - Ecosystem and Anthropogenic Systems
Class 7	10/16	Unit IV – Climate in Context, Part 2 - Ecosystem and Anthropogenic Systems
Field Trip 4		Contributing to the solution rather than the problem
Class 8	10/23	Unit V – Community Resilience
Class 9	10/30	Unit V - Community Resilience
Field Trip 5		Resilience Planning in PG and Monterey -
10	11/06	Unit VI - Capstone Presentations and Graduation