

IMN Volunteer acceptable activities hours guide

To become a certified IMN, a person must complete 24 hours of volunteer time benefiting Indiana's natural resources. To be an Advanced IMN, a person must complete 30 hours of volunteer time benefiting Indiana's natural resources.

To help IMN hosts and people understand what is acceptable and what it not, below is a list. This is a list to help guide people with questions. This is not a complete list. If there is ever a question please ask the current IMN State Coordinator who will take the question to the IMN Council. Jody Heaston, jheaston@dnr.in.gov



The main question to ask when deciding if the activity is acceptable is “Does this volunteering task benefit Indiana’s natural resources and help an Indiana’s natural resources organization?” And does it line up with IMN’s mission of *the Indiana Master Naturalist program is to bring together natural resource specialists with adult learners to foster an understanding of **Indiana’s plants, water, soils and wildlife**, and **promote natural resources volunteer service** within the State of Indiana.*

Acceptable Activities

- rain gardens
- invasive plant removal
- planting native trees for organization
- teaching about Indiana’s natural resources
- school nature labs
- promoting Indiana’s native plants and animals
- bird counting, nest monitoring, building birdhouses
- river/lake cleanups
- botanical gardens, since they promote natural environments
- Indiana citizen science projects like Hoosier Riverwatch, CoCoRaHS, birdcounts, etc
- being part of a nonprofit natural resources affiliated group
- Boy and Girl Scout projects related to Indiana’s natural resources.
- helping in state, county and city parks with many different tasks, from landscape maintenance, wood-splitting, teaching, litter pick up, manning visitor centers, answering phones, whatever they need, etc.
- butterfly/pollinator gardens
- native seed collection/swap

Special circumstances

Master Gardeners- The hours need to have something to do with native plants, pollinators, etc. Hours are not accepted dealing with annual flowerbed care, vegetable gardening, manning a MG booth at an event, etc.

Zoo volunteering- Hours working with or interpretation of Indiana's native species or Indiana's natural resources will count.

Recognized Wildlife Rehabs- Hours spent cleaning, care and interpretation of Indiana native species at recognized wildlife rehabs.

Wildlife Rehab fostering- Up to two hours/day can count for cleaning and care of Indiana native species being fostered at your home under the supervision of a recognized wildlife rehabs.

Not acceptable-

Animal Shelters

Feral Cat organizations

Food pantry

mowing church lawns

Exotic animal sanctuaries

Recycling centers

Campground hosting (Campers are already receiving free camping for their service)

Forest bathing/mediation/therapy

Your personal yard care and gardening

Note- out of state natural resources volunteer hours are acceptable. A maximum of 12 hours is allowed for both the IMN student and AIMN. The IMN Council is aware of people living just across the state border and those that travel south for the winter.

*This list is to serve as a guide. It is a very short list of **many things IMN's can do.***



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