

The logo for CFAES (The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences) is displayed in white text on a red rectangular background.

The Ohio State University Portage County Extension Office



Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Course

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 in meeting the needs of our citizens in the area of natural resources by assisting with educational programs.



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.

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

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

- Spaces in the class will be viewed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Class size is limited to 25 participants.
- You must be at least 18 years old to apply.

You can find the application at

<https://go.osu.edu/portageocvn2023>

Registration is \$225.00 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.

For payment:

<http://go.osu.edu/portageextensionpayment>
or scan the QR code.

Return applications by August 29th to Portage County Extension Office, 705 Oakwood St. Suite 103, Ravenna, OH 44266. Please make checks payable to Portage County OSU Extension.



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