

SEWARD PARK ENVIRONMENTAL & Audubon CENTER
MASTER URBAN NATURALIST

2012 Course Catalog & Trainee Expectations

Please RSVP to Allison McCarthy, Program Coordinator

Email: amccarthy@audubon.org

Phone: (206) 652-2444 x107

Thank you for your interest in becoming certified as a Master Urban Naturalist (MUN) at the Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center. Through a series of courses starting in February 2012, you will receive training from experienced Audubon naturalists on a diversity of topics. Each participant will choose one of three specific program tracks as listed below to guide their course series. Each program track includes three core courses and a minimum of two elective courses.

Three MUN Program tracks

- ❖ Early Childhood Education track
- ❖ Restoration track
- ❖ Birds of Seward Park track

In exchange for this training, MUN participants are asked to shadow programs that best align with their program track and volunteer 10 hours to community and school programs hosted by the Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center.

At Seward Park Audubon, the role of an urban naturalist extends past that of a person who is knowledgeable about the natural world. We view a naturalist as someone who can extend that knowledge to the community and assist Seward Park Audubon's mission in fostering a stewardship ethic and sense of connection with the surrounding natural environment.

Program Expectations:

As a MUN trainee, there are few but important expectations that we hold to ensure the quality of your experience.

- *Orientation is MANDATORY.*
- *You must attend your 3 core courses from your program track and a minimum of 2 elective courses.*
- *In order to receive certification as a Master Urban Naturalist, you must*
 - a) *Volunteer 10 hours of service to any one of our programs of your choice. These hours must be completed by the end of the calendar year (December 31, 2012).*
 - b) *Shadow 2 Seward Park Audubon programs that align with your program track.*

2012 MUN Program Orientation

Orientation is MANDATORY for all MUN trainees. Failure to attend this session will result in enrollment cancellation.

Date: Saturday, February 4th, 2012
Time: 12pm-3pm
Location: Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center
5902 Lake Washington Boulevard South
Seattle, WA, 98118

Orientation Agenda

12:00pm-12:30pm	Introduction to the Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center, its mission, building, and staff
12:30pm-1:30pm:	Participant introductions and activities
1:30pm-3:00pm:	Guided nature hike through the park

2012 Graduation Potluck Dinner Info

Each year Seward Park Audubon hosts a Graduation potluck dinner for all 2012 MUN program participants. Everyone will be encouraged to bring their family and friends for a food filled event to say our farewells and good lucks on each other's future naturalist endeavors.

Date: Saturday, April 21st, 2012
Time: 5pm-7pm
Location: Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center
5902 Lake Washington Boulevard South
Seattle, WA, 98118

Program tracks and core courses

****All course times and dates are subject to change.**

❖ Early Childhood Education (ECE) Track

The ECE program track is designed for those interested in gaining insight and experience working with children ages 0-10 in environmental education. Please visit our website for information on Seward Park Audubon's most popular early childhood programs including *Toddler Tales & Trails* and the *Talking Tree*. MUN trainees who select the ECE track will be asked to shadow and lead programs like these, and should therefore be comfortable working with this age group.

❖ Core Courses (*These three courses are mandatory with ECE track selection*)

- 1. Education & Interpretive Skills**
Thursday, February 9th 2012
6:00pm-8:00pm
Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#) & [Annie Morton](#)

This is an introductory course on education and interpretive theory. The goal of this course is to provide basic skills of interpretation and teaching techniques of environmental education to a variety of formal and informal audiences.

- 2. Cultural history & Ethnobotany of Seward Park**
Thursday March 1st, 2012
6:00pm- 8:00pm
Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#), Teacher Naturalist

This course is an overview of the cultural history of Seward Park. Course participants will be provided a snapshot of Seward Park's history, from Native American inhabitants to pioneer settlers to current day. The second half of the course will consist of an overview of the ethnobotanical backgrounds of native plant species in the park.

- 3. Teaching Ecology in Early Childhood Education**
Thursday March 15th, 2012
6:00pm- 8:00pm
Instructor: TBD

This course focuses on how to teach younger children, ages 0-10, all about ecology in a fun and interactive way. The second half of the course will focus on Seward Park Audubon programming, including *Toddler Tales & Trails* and the *Talking Tree*.

❖ Restoration Track

The Restoration program track is designed for those interested in learning the foundational principles of restoration ecology within the context of Seward Park's ecosystems. Participants will also learn the procedural and logistical process required to host public restoration events. Please note that this course includes a hiking and restoration component (e.g. removal of invasive plant species) so please dress for the weather!

❖ Core Courses (*These three courses are mandatory with Restoration track selection*)

1. *Education & Interpretive Skills*

Thursday, February 9th 2012

6:00pm-8:00pm

Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#) & [Annie Morton](#)

This is an introductory course on education and interpretive theory. The goal of this course is to provide basic skills of interpretation and teaching techniques of environmental education to a variety of formal and informal audiences.

2. *Beginning Botany*

Saturday March 10th, 2012

12:30pm-2:30pm

Instructor: TBD

This is an introductory course designed to provide a general understanding of the most common native plant species of the Puget Sound region, specific to Seward Park ecosystems. This course will be primarily field-based and will include the use of field guides and dichotomous keys to identify native and invasive plants.

3. *Restoration 101*

Saturday March 31st, 2012

9:00am-12:00pm

Instructor: [Cadi Poile](#), Teacher Naturalist

This course will provide an introduction to the principles of restoration ecology followed by a class restoration work party at one of Seward Park's active restoration sites. The goal of this course is to provide MUN trainees with an understanding of restoration ecology and the skills to assist Seward Park Audubon with public restoration events.

❖ Birds of Seward Park Track

The Birds of Seward Park program track is designed for those interested in learning about the basic techniques of birding as well as ecological and biological habits of the most common species found in Seward Park. Seward Park Audubon hosts several different birding programs to the public, from family birding hikes to regional field trips around the Puget Sound, all designed to educate the southeast Seattle community about the importance of avian species protection and conservation.

❖ **Core Courses** (*These three courses are mandatory with Birds of Seward Park track selection*)

1. *Education & Interpretive Skills*

Thursday, February 9th 2012

6:00pm-8:00pm

Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#) & [Annie Morton](#)

This is an introductory course on education and interpretive theory. The goal of this course is to provide basic skills of interpretation and teaching techniques of environmental education to a variety of formal and informal audiences.

2. *Birding the Lake*

Saturday February 18th, 2012

8:00am- 10:00am

Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#) & co-teacher

Introductory course about the many different resident and migrant shorebird species you're likely to find along the shores of Lake Washington. Following a brief indoor topic introduction, most of the class will be field-based so please dress for the weather! Binoculars are provided but personal pairs are highly encouraged for your comfort.

3. *Birding the Forest*

Saturday March 24th, 2012

8:00am- 10:00am

Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#) & co-teacher

Introductory about the different resident and migrant woodland species you're likely to find along the shoreline and inside the old growth forest of Seward Park. Following a brief indoor introduction, most of the class will be field-based so please dress for the weather! Binoculars are provided but personal pairs are highly encouraged for your comfort.

❖ Elective courses

In addition to the core program track classes, MUN trainees are required to select two elective courses. Below is a list of all of our course offerings for elective selection. Please read each description thoroughly, as there are additional courses offered that are not within any of the program tracks.

➤ ***Birding the Lake***

Saturday February 18th, 2012

8:00am- 10:00am

Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#) & co-teacher

Introductory course about the many different resident and migrant shorebird species you're likely to find along the shores of Lake Washington. Following a brief indoor introduction of the most common species, most of the class will be held out along the shores so please dress for the weather! Binoculars are provided but personal pairs are highly encouraged for your comfort.

➤ ***Aquatic Ecology of Lake Washington***

Saturday February 25th, 2012

9:00am- 12:00pm

Instructor: [Annie Morton](#), Education Director

An introduction to the ecology of Lake Washington. This is a hands-on course with an outdoor research component to teach participants about water chemistry, how to test the water for pollutants, Lake Washington facts and figures, and the basic ecology and morphology of the fish that inhabit the lake (with a special emphasis on salmon).

➤ ***Cultural history & Ethnobotany of Seward Park***

Thursday March 1st, 2012

6:00pm- 8:00pm

Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#), Teacher Naturalist

This course is an overview of the cultural history of Seward Park. The goal of this course is to provide a snapshot of the history of the park, from Native American inhabitants to pioneer settlers to current day. The second hour of the course will be dedicated to key ethnobotanical facts of the native plant species in the park. This information provides a sense of connectivity to the park that we hope all MUN participants will gain and help foster to the public.

➤ ***Beginning Botany***

Saturday March 10th, 2012

12:30pm-2:30pm

Instructor: TBD

Introductory course designed to provide an overview of the most common native plant species of the Puget Sound region (specific to Seward Park's old growth forest, prairie, and shoreline ecosystems). This course will be primarily field-based and will include the use of field guides and dichotomous keys to identify common native and invasive plants.

➤ **Teaching Ecology in Early Childhood Education**

Thursday March 15th, 2012

6:00pm- 8:00pm

Instructor: TBD

This course focuses on how to teach younger children, ages 0-10, all about ecology in a fun and interactive way. The second half of the course will focus on our programs, *Toddler Tales & Trails*, and the *Talking Tree* (see our website for more information on these programs).

➤ **Birding the Forest**

Saturday March 24th, 2012

8:00am- 10:00am

Instructor: [Ali McCarthy](#), Teacher Naturalist

Introductory course about the different resident and migrant woodland species you're likely to along the shrubby shoreline and inside the old growth forest of Seward Park. Following a brief indoor introduction of the most common species, most of the class will be field-based so please dress for the weather! Binoculars are provided but personal pairs are highly encouraged for your comfort.

➤ **Restoration 101**

Saturday March 31st, 2012

9:00am-12:00pm

Instructor: [Cadi Poile](#), Teacher Naturalist

This course will provide an introduction to the principles of restoration ecology followed by a class restoration work party at one of Seward Park's active restoration sites. The goal of this course is to provide MUN trainees with an understanding of restoration ecology and the skills to assist Seward Park Audubon with our public restoration events.

➤ **Nocturnal Creatures: Coyotes, Bats, and Owls Oh My!**

Thursday, April 12th, 2012

7:00pm-9:00pm

Instructor: [Annie Morton](#), Education Director

This course is an introduction to the night-time denizens of Seward Park. The course includes a 1.5 hr. long night hike, so please dress for the weather!

Questions? Please contact Ali McCarthy, amccarthy@audubon.org. Once you've selected your program track and elective courses, please submit the supplemental program application from our website, <http://sewardpark.audubon.org/>.