

Natural Lands' Force of Nature® volunteer program is a way to support land conservation and connect people to the outdoors through strong dedication to Natural Lands. Force of Nature volunteers receive extensive training and leadership opportunities, and commit to serving at least 20 hours per year.

Force of Nature volunteers participate in comprehensive training to learn about Natural Lands conservation strategies, land stewardship activities, leadership opportunities, and connecting people to the outdoors and each other. Volunteers gain valuable information and insights from Natural Lands staff, honing skills, while giving back to a great cause and community. Force of Nature volunteers become important Natural Lands representatives.

The **Force of Nature Class of 2022 training runs February 12 through April 23, 2022**. Six (6) sessions are Saturday afternoons in-person (indoors and outdoors); five (5) sessions are Thursday evenings virtually via Zoom. Volunteers must complete at least 6 of the 11 sessions to graduate the program.

Saturdays, 1:00-4:00 pm in-person or virtual via Zoom, as indicated:

Must attend at least 4 of 5 Saturday sessions, including the first one, to graduate.

- February 12 – virtual
Welcome and introduction; managing invasives.
- February 26 – virtual
Conservation strategies; mission and messaging.
- March 12 – in-person at ChesLen Preserve, Coatesville
Habitat restoration; land stewardship.
- March 26 – in-person at Gwynedd Preserve, North Wales
Tree planting and tree tube maintenance.
- April 9 – in-person at Stoneleigh: *a natural garden*, Villanova
Native plants gardening.



Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 pm virtual via Zoom:

Must participate in at least 2 of 5 evening sessions.

- March 10 – Habitat Restoration; Leave No Trace principles
- March 17 – Wildlife Management, Nestboxes; Trail and Garden Tenders
- March 31 – Ecologically-sustainable Gardening; Events
- April 7 – Leadership: Preserve Peer Leaders
- April 21 – Leadership: Preserve Ambassadors and Outreach



Saturday, April 23, 1:00-3:00 pm in-person – ChesLen Preserve

Graduation and Spring Celebration – all Force of Nature volunteers invited.

The safety of Natural Lands staff, volunteers, and visitors is of paramount importance. In-person sessions will be held outdoors, following CDC guidelines.

- Fully vaccinated attendees do not need to wear masks.
- Attendees who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask and practice social distancing.
- All attendees must wear a mask when in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
- If you are sick, please stay home.

Photos by Debbie Beer

Training features hands-on service learning. Prepare to explore rugged terrain and get hands dirty.