

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 participate in comprehensive training and commit to serving at least 20 hours per year.

Force of Nature volunteers learn about Natural Lands conservation strategies, land stewardship activities, leadership opportunities, and outreach to connect people to the outdoors and each other. Volunteers gain valuable information and insights from Natural Lands staff, hone skills, and give back to a great cause and community. Force of Nature volunteers become important Natural Lands representatives.

The **Force of Nature Class of 2024 training runs February 24 through April 21, 2024**. Eight (8) total sessions are scheduled on Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings, held in-person or virtually via Zoom. Volunteers must attend the minimum required sessions as indicated to graduate the program.

Saturdays, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, in-person at various preserve locations:

Must attend at least 3 of 4 Saturday sessions, including the first one.

- **February 24** – *in-person* at Crow's Nest Preserve, Elverson
Introduction; biodiverse eco-systems; invasive plants removal.
- **March 9** – *in-person* at ChesLen Preserve, Coatesville
Habitat restoration; Leave No Trace; land stewardship.
- **March 23** – *in-person* at Gwynedd Preserve, North Wales
Tree planting and tree tube maintenance.
- **April 6** – *in-person* at Stoneleigh: *a natural garden*, Villanova
Ecologically-sustainable gardening.

Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, virtual via Zoom, except one in-person session:

Must participate in at least 3 of 4 evening sessions, including the first one.

- **February 29** – *in-person* at Hildacy Preserve, Media
Mission and messaging; conservation strategies.
- **March 21** – *virtual* – Climate adaptability; community science and nestboxes.
- **March 28** – *virtual* – Events and outreach; trail & garden tenders.
- **April 11** – *virtual* – Leadership: Preserve Peer Leaders.

Sunday, April 21, 1:00-3:00 pm, in-person at ChesLen Preserve

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



Photos by Debbie Beer, Cass Kennedy

In-person sessions will be held indoors and outdoors. Training includes classroom-style and hands-on service learning. Participation in the Force of Nature program will require volunteers to have reliable transportation, be able to lift and carry 20 pounds, to walk and stand on uneven terrain, and to successfully pass a background check. The health and safety of Natural Lands' staff, volunteers, and visitors remains our top priority. If you are sick, please stay home. Masking is optional; participants may choose to mask at any time.

There is an application and fee to participate in the Force of Nature training program. Scholarships are available. All adults are welcome to apply online at www.natlands.org/forceofnature.