

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 2025 training runs February 13 through April 6, 2025**. 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.

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 13 – in-person** at Hildacy Preserve, Media
Introduction; mission & messaging; conservation strategies & zoning.
- **February 27 – virtual** – Climate adaptability; community science & nestboxes.
- **March 13 – virtual** – Events & outreach; trail stewards & garden tenders.
- **March 27 – virtual** – Leadership: Preserve Peer Leaders.

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 15 – in-person** at Crow's Nest Preserve, Elverson
Biodiverse eco-systems; invasive plants ID & removal.
- **February 22 – in-person** at ChesLen Preserve, Coatesville
Habitat restoration; Leave No Trace; land stewardship.
- **March 8 – in-person** at Gwynedd Preserve, North Wales
Tree planting & tree tube maintenance.
- **March 22 – in-person** at Stoneleigh: *a natural garden*, Villanova
Ecologically-sustainable gardening.

Sunday, April 6, 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.