Environmental Service Learning

How to Register for a Service Project
Who are we?

CEES is an applied research center housed within the School of Science and Department of Earth Sciences.
The research done at CEES is applied (i.e. it has practical application - it is not strictly theoretical) and focuses on water quality issues, soils, and environmental restoration.

Education outreach involves bringing STEM activities/environmental education programs (at no charge) to middle school and high school students using the Center’s mobile STEM lab. The Center also does outreach directed towards the general public at fairs and festivals and other events.

Environmental stewardship occurs through the Center’s Service Learning program.

CEES is a grant-funded center. In other words, the main work of the Center is made possible predominantly through grants, donations, and other charitable gifts. University funding is minimal.

CEES is hiring!
Environmental Service Learning:

- Providing opportunities for *environmental stewardship* and *experiential learning*.

- Engaging in *dialog* about *environmental issues*.

- Introducing regional *natural areas*.

- Introducing *groups that maintain* these areas.

- Introducing issues to stimulate *changes in behavior* as well as *critical thinking* about humanity’s role as an *agent of change*.

- *Restoring* and *improving* natural areas.

- *Mitigating* and *preventing* pollution.

- *Building* a sense of community.

CEES’s Service Learning program provides opportunities for all of the above . . . . . .

**Education & Community Service**

Aside from the obvious faculty requirement or extra-credit bribe?

---

**IMPROVE WATER QUALITY**

. . . . and some projects also result in improved water quality – both locally and regionally!
How to Sign Up: go to https://cees.iupui.edu

Step 1. Go to the CEES web site.

FYI: CEES’s environmental stewardship and education outreach activities are funded through grants and donations.

If you are feeling philanthropic, the donation button is at the bottom of the page.

Environmental research, education and stewardship

Our vision is to grow into an international leader in environmental and natural resources management through our research programs, education and outreach, and public service and environmental stewardship.

Read more about CEES

Water research
SUSTAINABLE WATER FOR CENTRAL INDIANA

Education programs
DISCOVERING THE SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Service learning
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Step 2. From the Service Learning menu, select Current Projects & Events.

You can also access the Register and Reflective Essay pages from this menu. Those will be important later.
Service learning projects and events

Spring 2024

Registration for fall service projects will open January 29.

There is no DIY project planned for spring 2024.

Pay attention to the date that registration opens.

Project information

- Project descriptions, registration information, FAQs and more
- Learn about our project sites
- Learn about our community partners
- Instructions and resources for DIY projects

Step 3. Choose your project.

Step 4. Once you have chosen a project from the Events page, select Register from the side bar or the drop-down menu.

Scroll down to see the project list.

Standard information will be provided for each project.

Project # - Name of Project

Day: date (rain date: date)

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *

Capacity: #

Location: park/place name

Activity: what we will be doing

Partner: name of our community partner

* Some projects may take place at a different time.
Register for a service learning event

For in-person projects, register for **one event** unless you have special circumstances that allow you to register for additional events (multiple classes, class requires more than one event, or you are enrolled in G-199). The site will allow you to enroll in multiple projects if you have special circumstances.

**Register for each event separately and contact us to have your multiple registrations approved.**

Additional projects may be added during the course of the semester. Check the project page occasionally for updates. If additional events are added, instructors of participating courses will be notified. Once projects have closed, registering as waitlist will allow us to assess the need for additional project(s).

Need an additional service project? [Consider non-IUPUI alternatives](#).

Terms and conditions apply—read the [Assumption of Risk and Photo Release](#), give authorization and provide an electronic signature at the end of the registration page.

*Students enrolled in G-199 must register for multiple projects.*

*The Bird Window Strike Survey is an exception: students can register for both the window strike survey AND one other project from the list.*

If space permits (i.e. projects do not fill to capacity), students will be allowed to register for multiple projects.

Your instructors will be alerted – and a notice will be added to the projects page – if this occurs.

Scroll down to reach the registration form.
Service learning registration form

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

**Project selection**
Select the project/event you would like to enroll in. Choose "WAITLIST" if the project you want is not available on the project menu (projects not listed on the project menu are at capacity/closed), and you do not have a second choice project. If you have a second choice project, select your second choice project from the project menu AND your preferred project from the waitlist menu. You will be switched to your preferred project if space becomes available.

Projects *

**Waitlist**
Select if your desired project is closed/at capacity. You will be notified if you obtain a spot in the project.

See the [Projects & Events page](#) to find the current status of a project.

- Waitlist

**Your information**

Your Name *

First  Last

Email

Please use your university email address. You will receive a confirmation of your registration to this email address.

* Seriously. Please be careful when typing this field!

What if my preferred project is closed?

If your 1st choice project is closed, go ahead and register for your 2nd choice project under the Projects menu AND also select your 1st choice project from the Waitlist menu.

If there is only one project you want, register as “waitlist” on the Projects menu, check the Waitlist box, AND select your 1st choice project on the Waitlist menu.

You must fill in all fields that have a red asterisk. *

NOTE. If all projects fill rapidly, and a large waitlist develops, additional projects may be added as needed. Check the Events page occasionally for additions.

Please make sure this is filled in accurately.
Online Project Confirmation

Once you have successfully registered, you will receive an email confirmation that looks something like this.

After you have successfully registered, you will receive a confirmation email.

Did’t receive an email? Check your junk folder.
Did you enter your email address correctly?

The confirmation email is “standard boilerplate” – specifics do not apply to all projects.

Example: 25 is not the set number of participants in all projects; some projects accommodate more people, some less.

To avoid overbooking, projects are “closed” before they are completely filled.

Wait listing is used to fill projects to capacity.

You have registered for a service learning event. PLEASE READ THIS MESSAGE CAREFULLY

Provided (1) you have not chosen "waitlist", (2) you have registered at least 7 days before the event; and, (3) you are among the first 25 registrants, you will be added to the service learning registration list.

If you are wondering if you are among the first 30 registrants, check the confirmation page to see how many students registered for the same event before you. We make our best effort to close registration when the event fills and to accommodate everyone who has registered if there are more than 30 registrants; however, we cannot guarantee you a spot if an event is substantially overbooked.

In the case you cannot be accommodated, we will notify you as soon as we discover the overbooking (usually within a couple of days of your registration). No news is good news!

If you signed up for "waitlist", you will be notified if a space becomes available for an existing event or new events are added.

Information for each project can be found on the individual project page. Please investigate this page for resources, directions and any other necessary information.

Events are subject to change due to weather. Cancellations are made in advance as soon as possible and always by 7am of the day of the event, with the exception of poorly predicted rapidly changing conditions. We advise you to check our website and the email address that you provided prior to leaving the house the day of the event.

If you have questions, please email cees@iupui.edu. You should receive a reply within 48 hrs. (usually sooner) M-F.

If you do not receive a confirmation notice, you probably made an error when entering your email address.

Please make sure that you enter your email address correctly!
Additional Information

Participants are taken in the order registration is received, so please sign up early – projects can fill quickly!

Submit online registration information ONLY once.

- If you make a mistake, email cees@iu.edu with corrections.

If you need to cancel, do so in advance via email at cees@iu.edu and reschedule.

- This allows your spot to be opened for someone on the Waitlist.
The Week of the Project

You will receive a reminder email with details about the event.

Map and driving directions.

Copy of the Assumption of Risk waiver.

You cannot participate without this waiver.

Minors must have the waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

The waiver is also a photo release. If you do not want to be photographed, please let the Service Learning Project Leader know when you arrive for the event.

Haven’t received a reminder? Check your junk folder!

Reminder is typically sent out on Tuesday of project week.
Project Day

What if the weather is . . . . horribly, awfully, terribly bad?

- the project may have a slightly delayed start
- the project may be cancelled and rescheduled to the rain date

**Project cancellations** will be posted 24 hours before the start of a work day (when possible): check your email – all project participants will be sent an email in the event of a project cancellation.

- event is automatically moved to the rain date (usually the following **Sunday**)
- **time may change** – watch your email

If the weather is bad, but the system looks like it will clear within 30-60 minutes of the start time, the project may go forward.

If the weather doesn’t look like it will clear, or field conditions are not conducive to accomplishing project goals, the project will be rescheduled.

Can lead to project cancellation

- rain
- snow/ice
- flooding

Watch the weather forecast.

Check your email for cancellation/rescheduling notice.
Receiving Credit for the Project

Be present the full 3 hours.

Do the project work.

Complete the post-event online reflection.

Absolutely 100% must complete the online reflection. You will not receive credit for the project without it.
What Is Needed for an Event?

• Water – stay hydrated!
  
  Please bring your own reusable water bottle.

  You may wish to bring a thermos with a warm beverage.

  You may want to bring a snack.

• Dress appropriately!

• Tools & Gloves

  CEES will provide all tools necessary to do the work. This includes loppers (for honeysuckle removal), trash bags & trash tongs for trash removal, clip boards, writing implements, etc. CEES will also provide work gloves. You may bring your own tools and gloves, but they are your responsibility. Tools that have a cutting surface that is always exposed (i.e. hand saws, chain saws) are not permitted.

CEES does not provide transportation to/from the work site!

Carpooling to off-campus locations is encouraged.
What to Wear:

**Required:**

- **long pants and close-toed, close-heeled shoes**
- **denim = good; knits = not so good**
- **ripped jeans = not good**

**footwear**

- **full coverage and ankle protection**
- **boots (mud, hiking, snow) are generally a good idea**
- **thin-soled shoes . . . not good**

**Suggestions:**

- **dress in layers in cold weather**
- **long sleeves = more protection**
  - **warm weather - thorns, biting insects**
- **sun protection**
- **insect repellant**

Dress for protection against thorns, poison ivy, etc.

Wearing shorts, a skort, or a skirt is fine, as long as you wear long pants underneath.

Poison Ivy – a plant to be avoided!

FYI: wearing compression garments (such as some popular sportswear) for a prolonged period in cold weather can make you feel colder.

Dress for the field - layering provides warmth while allowing you to remove layers to prevent over-heating.

Wear clothing that can be easily washed.

Protect your legs!

Protect your ankles!

Protect your feet!

Proper footwear is very important: keep your feet dry; protect against dangers such as broken glass, sharp metal.

Open-toed or open-heeled footwear, such as sandals or flip-flops, is not appropriate; students without appropriate footwear will not be allowed to participate.

Sun protection includes eyes and head, as well as neck, arms, and shoulders.
Service Learning During a Pandemic

The Mask Question

*Do I need to wear a mask while taking part in a service learning project?*

- outdoors = reduced transmission risk

Depends on university policy.

At the moment, masking or not masking is up to you.

**Masks are a good idea for certain Projects (due to the nature of the activity) – anything involving handling rotting wood, for instance, or dirt, dust, sediment, or other allergens.**

**Other considerations . . . . .**

- how contagious is the current variant
- do you have a “sniffle”
- pollen and other environmental allergens
- keeps your nose warm (cold weather)

Masks are often better than scarves for keeping your nose warm in cold weather!
Be mindful of your surroundings . . . .

Nature is not clickable . . . .

Misapplication of excessive attention to electronic devices can result in miscalculations and unfortunate mistakes that—with mischievous misadventure—compound miseries and foment misgivings as relates to missed opportunities to enjoy the miseenescene and other interesting miscellany in the natural world.

In other words, if you are constantly looking at your smartphone, you’re going to miss a lot . . . . . . just sayin’.

Any snakes we might see will be more along the lines of a judgmental shoelace, rather than a nope rope or danger noodle.

Please: don’t text and nature . . . . . .

. . . . and no step on snek.
Questions?

Contact:

Dr. Victoria Schmalhofer

cees@iu.edu
Stay Connected!

Twitter: @CEES_IUPUI

Interesting environmental science, ecology & geology themed posts.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CEES.IUPUI
The Doge is no longer considered funny – alas!

‘Tis not a vibe.

Its humor has ceased to be.

This is an ex-meme.