Become a Master Naturalist

- study and explore Long Island’s Natural History (flora, fauna, ecosystems)
- gain hands on experience in public lands conservation and management
- act sustainably for recreational, aesthetic and preservation purposes.

Master Naturalist certification is designed to develop a cadre of citizen conservation stewards dedicated to nature education, land stewardship, and taking pride in Long Island’s natural resources and parklands. This is a train-the-trainer program. Pass it on to friends & family.
The Basics

- **Master Naturalist Training** (Orientation, Graduation and Six Core sessions - 45 hours) Upon graduation, receive 42 NY CTLE Credits.

- **Nature Journal**: Keep a physical journal where you jot down notes, sketch observations, document work, and save activity sheets.

- **Meaningful Homework**: To be completed during Master Naturalist Training, based on selected home park (a natural area frequented).

- **Relevant Service**: 20 hours of relevant service, part of which can be completed activity sheets or from other areas of interest.
S-I: Long Island Overview
This session is an overview of Long Island’s natural areas and their natural history. From learning how to identify common plants to understanding park management from federal to local levels, you will begin to piece together a broad regional view. We will apply nature journal writing as an art of self expression and as a means to record your study of native plants, wildlife, and their habitats, along with your observations of key indicators of healthy natural areas.
S-II: LI Geology & Plant Communities
We will introduce you to how Long Island was shaped by glaciers, and the resulting soil types and habitats that follow. Learn more about native plants, life histories and various management techniques from wildfire management to ecological restoration to invasive species control.
S-III: Freshwater Wetlands & Conservation
Study the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife and water quality issues of LI’s freshwater and wetlands (marshes, swamps, vernal ponds, and permanent wetlands). Discuss society’s role in conservation including environmental ethics. Further develop interpretation skills and heighten your nature awareness with field guide and guided meditation practice.
S-IV: Trails, Greenways & Sustainability

This is an introduction to the triple bottom line (ecology, economics, and politics) as applied to trails within natural areas. Be prepared with the right equipment to enjoy the outdoors and to learn how to sustainably maintain trails. Discuss why ATV's are so incompatible with environmental protection. Learn how to read maps and trail signage.
S-V: Wildlife of Long Island

Delve into the wildlife groups of Long Island with an overview of birds and mammals of Long Island, including their life cycles, habitats, and natural history. Will will also consider how coyote, turkey, bobwhite quail and other species are returning to Long Island, and the mechanisms for their reintroductions.
S-VI: Marine Ecology
Encounter the rich complexity and diversity of marine environments typical of Long Island. We will also delve into marine stewardship such as shellfish restoration and in general how it relates current aquaculture practices. We’ll also discuss hurricanes and related survival skills.
Be Prepared to be Outside

- **Stay hydrated in all seasons - bring enough water**

- **Backpack** - maps, first aid kit, toiletries, field guides, binoculars, nature journal, phone, camera, snacks, lunch.

- **Summer:** Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing; slacks rather than shorts, are recommended, and wear a hat. Bring sunblock and sunglasses. Rain gear

- **Winter:** Wear wool or silk keeps you warm when wet or think ski clothes, and and layers. Wear warm insulated boots when ground is frozen or during cold wet weather. Always bring hat and gloves. Rain gear.

- **Learning about nature means spending time OUTSIDE.** Whether the weather cooperates or not there will be great opportunities to see how the weather causes wildlife and the ecosystems to react.
Ticks & Mosquitoes

- If you apply Permethrin, apply it only to your clothing not to your skin. For more: [http://www.tickencounter.org](http://www.tickencounter.org)
- Use DEET based repellents like “Deep Woods OFF” – some people may be allergic.

Poison Ivy

- Leaves of Three (with no thorns, and red dot in center, with hairy vine) Leave it be.

★ Awareness of Conditions, and seasonal timing, before you go outside, is key.
The Master Naturalist Program on Long Island is:

- FUN
- ENGAGING
- FLEXIBLE
- INEXPENSIVE
- REWARDING
- CHALLENGING
- INFORMATIVE
About Our Program
for more information: www.qualityparks.org

The Program is organized under Quality Parks, which is:
- a federally registered 501(c)3, Long Island based since 2000
- a professional organization connecting people with nature
- devoted to environmental education
- stressing environmental stewardship on Long Island
- providing opportunities to volunteer

The Team:
- Quality Parks Founder Mindy Block
- Donors
- Cooperators
- Coordinators
- Hub Coordinators
- Instructors

→ and is dedicated to Raymond P. Corwin (1953-2010)
OUR VALUES

The Quality Parks Master Naturalist is a combined effort between dedicated individuals, businesses and organizations to provide this top-rated course to the citizens of Long Island, New York.

To that end, all persons shall be treated equally without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, economic status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Quality Parks is a federally recognized, 501(c)(3) charity, since 2000, striving for excellence in a continual learning environment.
Wrap Up

How much does it cost?
How long does it take?

- **Registration and Tuition fees** average between $360-$380, depending on various discounts. Upon registration, receive a Free T-shirt, designed by Barry Orkin.

- **Program completion takes, on average, about six months.** But this time varies greatly with individual needs and schedules.

www.qualityparks.org