



# University of Florida/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Program Environmental Interpretation 24-hour Special Topic



***Interested in Becoming a Better Environmental Interpreter?***

***Want to Share Nature through Educational Programs, Outdoor Tours,  
or Gain Experience Creating Effective, Educational Displays?***

The FMNP Environmental Interpretation Special Topic course is designed to make participants better environmental interpreters and educators, so that others may learn about Florida's natural history and conservation issues.

### **Environmental Interpretation Workshops:**

- **Interpretive Presentations:** Provide participants with skills needed to develop and deliver high-quality interpretive presentations.
- **Guided Interpretive Programs:** Provide participants with skills needed to develop and deliver high-quality guided interpretive programs.
- **Interpretive Displays:** Provide participants with skills needed to develop and deliver high-quality interpretive displays.

This course will cover concepts such as the fundamentals of interpretation, key elements of an effective interpretive program, how to create themes, sub-messages and transitions, group management, addressing diverse audience needs, developing interpretive displays and practicing interpretive techniques.

### **Students Receive:**

- 24 Educational Contact Hours with Professional Environmental Educators
- Classroom Instruction plus Hands-on Experiences
- Detailed University of Florida Course Manual
- Career Networking Opportunity, Professional and Personal Development
- FMNP Environmental Interpretation Certificate & Pin (upon successful completion)
- Entry into the UF/IFAS Online Database of FMNP

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- *Student Carpooling Suggested*
- *Approximate Times May Change*
- *Transportation, Lunches Not Included*
- *Classroom Location is in Pinellas County*
- *Course Time Schedule Does Not Include Your Travel Time*

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**For More Information, Contact Lead Pinellas County FMNP Instructor  
Jeanne Murphy with Sensing Nature® at [jmurphy@sensingnature.com](mailto:jmurphy@sensingnature.com), 727-397-2306.**



# University of Florida/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Program

## Environmental Interpretation 24-hour Special Topic



- Student Carpooling Suggested
- Approximate Times May Change
- Transportation and Lunches Not Included
- Schedule Does Not Include Your Travel Time to and from Classes
- Classroom Presentations Hosted at Weedon Island Preserve, St. Petersburg

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### Day 1: Interpretive Presentations & Guided Programs Workshops

**Wed., May 31**      **Interpretative Presentations Workshop**      **8:30 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**Hosted at Weedon Island Preserve (WIP) – Cultural Center**

<b>8:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Morning Classroom Session</b>
8:30 – 9:15	Orientation to Environmental Interpretation Course, Objectives, Overview and Class Mixer
9:15 – 11:00	“ <i>Interpretative Presentations</i> ”
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:00	Group Activity—Case Studies Live Bird of Prey Presentation
<b>12:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b> —bring sack lunch to eat on site; not enough time to go buy lunch
<b>12:30 – 4:30</b>	<b>Afternoon Classroom Session</b>
12:30 – 12:45	Review Interpretative Presentations Concepts
12:45 – 2:15	Work in a Group on <u>Indoors “Interpretative Presentation Practical Activity”</u> As a group, determine your group’s indoors Interpretative Presentation topic. Then, each group member is to write a theme based on this topic with at least 3 of the 7 messages that you think are most important. Compare, and then work together on your one, agreed-upon message creating a presentation outline that you will be sharing with the class.
2:15 – 4:00	Present an Outline of your Fun, Low Stress Indoors Group <u>Interpretative Presentation</u>
4:00 – 4:10	Break
4:10 – 5:00	Review; Next Class & Wrap-up Homework Assignments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individually – Next class, bring an example to share with the class of a good or bad Guided Interpretative Program (within 1-3 minutes describe YouTube video, tell about personal experience, etc.)</li> <li>• Begin discussions about Friday’s homework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group – Homework Group Practical Activity: Designing an Interpretative Display. Work with your group to create an interpretative display using case study from course materials.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## Day 2: Guided Interpretative Programs Workshop

**Thurs., June 1**      **Guided Interpretative Programs Workshop**      **8:30 AM – 5:00 PM**  
**Classroom & Outdoor Sessions Hosted at WIP – Cultural Center**

**8:30 – 12:00**      **Morning: Classroom**

8:30 – 9:15      Introduction, Learning Objectives, Overview

9:15 – 10:45      “*Guided Interpretative Programs*” with Breakout Activities & Discussions

10:45 – 11:00      Break

11:00 – 11:50      Group Activity—Case Studies 1 & 2

11:50 – 12:00      Summary

**12:00 – 12:30**      **Lunch**—bring sack lunch to eat on site; not enough time to go buy lunch

**12:30 – 4:30**      **Afternoon: Classroom & Field Session at WIP**

12:30 – 1:15      Review; Discuss Homework Examples of Guided Interpretative Programs

1:15 – 2:30      Work on Your “Guided Interpretative Program” with Partners

2:30 – 4:30      **Outdoors: Practical Experience—Present Your Outline for Guiding an  
Outdoor Interpretative Program**

4:30 – 5:00      Wrap Up

Work on Homework Assignments

- Individually – Next class, bring an example to share with the class of a good or bad Interpretative Display, Brochure or Kiosk (photos on flash drive, printed image, tell about it, etc.)
- Group – Homework Group Practical Activity: Designing an Interpretative Display. Work with your group to create an interpretative display using case study from course materials.

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## Day 3: Interpretative Displays Workshop

**Fri., June 2**      **Interpretative Displays Workshop**      **8:30 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**Hosted at WIP – Cultural Center Classroom**

**8:30 – 12:00**      **Morning Classroom Session**

8:30 – 8:45      Review; Learning Objectives, Overview

8:45 – 10:30      “*Interpretative Displays*”

10:30 – 10:45      Break

10:45 – 11:30      Case Studies; Share Your Homework Examples of Interpretative Displays

**11:30 – 12:00**      **Lunch**—bring sack lunch to eat on site; not enough time to go buy lunch

**12:00 – 5:00**      **Afternoon On-site Field Trip & Classroom Session  
in Weedon Cultural & History Center**

12:00 – 1:30      Visit Weedon’s Cultural Center and Discuss Displays

1:30 – 2:30      Application Activity - Time to Work on Group Interpretative Displays

2:30 – 4:00      **Indoors: Presentations of Your Group Interpretative Displays**

4:00 – 5:00      Finish any remaining course materials

Graduation!

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# **FMNP Environmental Interpretation Class Guidelines:**

**Classroom Presentations:** “Classroom” means we are at Weedon Island Preserve in the Cultural Center Classroom unless otherwise instructed. It might be very warm or very cool inside or outside—please, dress accordingly.

**Locations & Times** may change due to unforeseen circumstances (this rarely happens). Transportation and lunches are not included.

**Course Time Schedule** does not include travel time.

## **Missing a class or a field trip:**

- You cannot miss a classroom session or field trip session and still become certified in Environmental Interpretation.
- If you miss a session, the University of Florida will not issue you a certification for this class, but please keep coming to as many sessions as possible...this is *your* course.

**Student Carpooling is Suggested** (up to students to arrange)

## **Flexible Schedule:**

- The schedule times listed are as close as possible, but we need you to be flexible.
- We probably will not get out early; however, we may run late. We will try to stick to the listed times, but please arrange your schedule so that the class can be flexible.
- Course time schedule does not include your travel time.

**Food & Drinks!** Please, absolutely no “Styrofoam” containers—violators have to bring snacks to the hungry class the next day.

**Cell Phones:** They are fine to use outside of class. Please don't allow them to ring during classroom sessions or on field trips. Talk on the gadgets during break time, lunchtime, before and after class. Violators have to bring snacks to the hungry class the next day.

**If the Weather Cooperates, We will Apply the FMNP Teachings to On-site Examples. For Your Comfort, Here are Some Field Recommendations:**

- Don't wear perfume/cologne or use perfumed soap/body lotion before going out in the field. This may attract more unwanted buzzing invertebrates known as mosquitoes, midges (no see 'ems) and flies.
- There are insects (including mosquitoes), spiders, and snakes outdoors. Hopefully, we will see these beautiful creatures. Always watch where you are putting your hands and feet. Use your brain before your body.
- Be aware that you may be experiencing a variety of environments if outdoors. It might be very warm or very cool indoors and outside—please, dress accordingly. For your comfort, always bring a spare change of clothes.
- **Wear:** layered clothes, long sleeves and pants, hiking boots or appropriate close-toed and comfortable foot wear for the day, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent (especially on feet/legs).
- **Please wear close-toed shoes.** The site may not be level or easy to travel in open-toed shoes.
- **Suggested field items:** water, snacks, notepad and pen, binoculars, insect repellent, change of clothes.

**We will have a great time learning about & experiencing  
Florida's natural environments!**