



Certified Interpretive Guide Training Workshop

July 20 – 23, 2009

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Carver, MN

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in partnership with the National Association for Interpretation is offering a professional certification course for individuals who will be delivering interpretive programs or having public contact at interpretive sites.

The CIG Program

The Certified Interpretive Guide program is designed for anyone who delivers interpretive programs to the public. It combines both the theoretical foundations of the profession with practical skills in delivering quality interpretive programming to visitors.

This 32-hour course includes:

- History, definition, and principles of interpretation
- Making your programs purposeful, enjoyable, relevant, organized, and thematic
- Using tangible objects to connect audiences to intangible ideas and universal concepts in interpretive programs
- Presentation and communication skills
- Certification requirements (open book exam; program outline; 10-min. presentation)
- All materials, workbook, and CIG course textbook



Requirements for the CIG Course

Anyone age 16 or over with a desire to increase their knowledge and skills related to interpretation may participate. Membership in NAI is not required, but NAI members may pay a discounted fee to participate in the program (See Costs below for details). You can also elect to take the training without becoming certified. Class size will be limited to 15 participants.

NAI Certification requirements

Open-book exam
Program outline
10-minute presentation

Course Instructor: Mara Koenig, M.ED., CIT, CIG

Mara Koenig is a Visitor Services Specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. With 10 years of experience as a naturalist, interpretive specialist, environmental educator, instructor, and course developer Mara has been a CIG instructor for five years. Her areas of expertise include curricula development, instructing teacher workshops and training programs, and presenting environmental education programs to school children. Furthermore, she is active in local and national organizations including being the Minnesota State Coordinator for NAI Region V.



The Workshop Setting



Located in the Twin Cities, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge offers over 14,000 acres of solitude and plethora of wildlife experiences along 50 miles of the Minnesota River. Sessions will be held at the Refuge's Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center in Carver, MN. This site is on the southern end of the refuge and offers spectacular bluff views of the Minnesota River Valley along with restored prairie and oak savannah habitats to explore. Sessions begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. daily.

Food

Participants should bring their own sack lunch as there are little restaurant choices in close proximity. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided during breaks. Please bring your own water bottle for use during the course.

Travel and Lodging

The Refuge's Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center is located approximately 5 miles from the city of Chaska and 7 miles from city of Shakopee. These cities have multiple hotels to choose from for your accommodations.

Costs: payment must be received by **July 6, 2009**

NAI Member: Cost is \$140

(Includes certification fee, course materials, and daily snacks)

Non-Member: Cost is \$90

(Includes certification fee, one year NAI membership, course materials and daily snacks)

Don't want NAI membership: Cost is \$160

(Includes certification fee, higher for non-members, course materials, and daily snacks)

Don't want the certification (just training): Cost is \$65

(Includes course materials and daily snacks)

Interpretation Library

Six texts are necessary for completion of the open-book exam and will be provided for student use during the workshop. If you wish to purchase your own books, NAI offers a discounted package price of \$120 plus \$10 shipping. Visit www.interpnet.com/store/ or call NAI at 888-900-8283 to order the "Certification Library" and have the books shipped to you now. I highly recommended reading the material in advance as it is a lot of material to cover and this will free up your evenings and allow you to focus more on class activities.



The texts used are:

Environmental Interpretation by Sam Ham;

Interpreting Our Heritage by Freeman Tilden;

Interpretation of Natural and Cultural Resources by Knudsen, Cable & Beck;

Interpretation for the 21st Century by Beck & Cable;

Sharing Nature with Children by Joseph Cornell;

Interpreting for Park Visitors by Bill Lewis.

Registration and Information

For more information or to register, please contact **Mara Koenig** at mara_koenig@fws.gov or call **952/858-0710**.