

What is a Naturalist?

At the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, we define a **NATURALIST** as “someone who enjoys being outdoors and learning about nature.” Anyone can be a naturalist!

Naturalists are:

- **Curious** (We ask questions!)
- **Full of wonder** (We love making astonishing discoveries!)
- **Observant** (We notice what’s happening in nature!)
- **Quiet** (We want to observe wildlife!)
- **Respectful** (We are responsible and kind to each other, our equipment, and nature!)
- **Patient** (We know it can take time for things to happen outside!)
- **Prepared** (We get our minds, hearts, and equipment ready for the field!)
- **Safe** (We make good choices and avoid danger!)
- **Adventurous** (We are love to explore!)
- **In the moment** (focused on what’s here, now!)

We keep track of what we see and do outside in our nature journals. Nature journals help us remember what we learned and experienced outside.

We use our **SENSES** outside – we see, hear, smell, touch, and sometimes even taste things (always being safe, of course).

