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 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).