

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Iowa Association of Naturalists

The Iowa Association of Naturalists is dedicated to promoting the advancement of cultural and natural interpretation in Iowa. As a part of this mission the IAN Professional Standards for Interpretive Naturalists were created to provide an outline for academic training, to aid employers in writing job descriptions and hiring interpreters, to give direction to practicing interpreters seeking to upgrade their skills and to help define interpretation as a profession.

The IAN Professional Development Program takes the IAN Professional Standards a step further by creating a voluntary program to:

- Motivate Iowa interpreters to evaluate and improve their competencies as defined in the IAN Professional Standards.
- Recognize professional development among naturalists to employers, the public served, and other conservation and education professionals.

To obtain a Professional Development Certificate, an applicant must:

- Complete 20 hours of professional development each year, from January 1 to December 30.
- Distribute the contact hours within the six designated categories of activities. The last two categories are optional.
- Maintain a Personal Activity Record documenting participation in professional development activities.
- By December 30, submit an Application for Professional Development Certificate and the Personal Activity Record to the Professional Development Program Committee Chairperson.

Application for Professional Development Certificate

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Do you wish to have a letter of recognition sent to your employer? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please enclosed a stamped envelope addressed to your employer.

Summary of contact hours for the past year:

Category I: _____	(2 minimum - 6 maximum)
Category II: _____	(2 minimum - 6 maximum)
Category III: _____	(2 minimum - 6 maximum)
Category IV: _____	(2 minimum - 6 maximum)
Category V: _____	(0 minimum - 4 maximum)
Category VI: _____	(0 minimum - 4 maximum)
Total _____	(20 minimum)

To the best of my knowledge the information contained in this application is accurate and complete.

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)

I have examined this application and authorize the issuance of a Professional Development Certificate.

Professional Development Program Chairperson

(Date)

PERSONAL ACTIVITY RECORD

The first five categories are based on the major areas of the Professional Standards for Interpretive Naturalist as defined by the Iowa Association of Naturalists. Professional Service is the sixth category.

The applicant must earn 20 contact hours per year. Ways to earn these hours include attending seminars, correspondence courses, workshops, regular college courses and independent study. **Independent study** must be documented with a brief written explanation. Applicants should show how the knowledge gained was used in their work and how it relates to the Professional Standards. Each independent study project is worth one hour. A maximum of four hours may be applied to any of the first four categories.

Category I. Knowledge of natural and cultural history and recreation.

Activity	Provider	Date Attended	Hours
Total Hours (2 minimum - 6 maximum)			

Category II. Program development & educational skills.

Activity	Provider	Date Attended	Hours
Total Hours (2 minimum - 6 maximum)			

Category III. Communication Skills.

Activity	Provider	Date Attended	Hours
Total Hours (2 minimum - 6 maximum)			

Category IV. Administrative Skills.

Activity	Provider	Date Attended	Hours
Total Hours (2 minimum - 6 maximum)			

Category V. Other certification/training.

Activity	Provider	Date Attended	Hours
Total Hours (0 minimum - 4 maximum)			

Category VI. Professional service. Holding an elected office is credited three hours; a committee chair is credited two hours; and actively serving on a committee is credited one hour.

Office/Committee	Dates Served	Hours
Total Hours (0 minimum - 4 maximum)		

Narration: (Required)

Choose one session or program you attended and give a detailed description of how you applied the new information learned to your job.

Independent Study: (optional)

A **special project**, or learning situation **on your own**, like **in-depth** research, reading, etc in which you have sought to learn a new skill, or new information, as opposed to a course/session offered by an organization, college, agency, **may qualify for 1 hour of credit in Categories I through V.**

**It is hoped that throughout one's career this professional growth and recognition is on going.
Certificates are given annually.**

**Members completing five years of professional development will receive a pin.
Ten year participants are recognized with a plaque.**

Return by December 31st to: Miriam Patton, Palo Alto County Conservation Board
3259-355th Avenue, Ruthven, IA 51358
Work: 712-837-4866 Fax: 712-837-4831
paccb@ruthventel.com