

BIOBLITZ GUIDE & TOOLS



BACKYARD WILDERNESS

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EXPLORE YOUR BACKYARD WILDERNESS

"Nature is not a place to visit. It is home"-Gary Snyder



Inspired by the film [Backyard Wilderness](#), we are launching a series of **Backyard Wilderness Bioblitzes** in partnership with libraries, museums, science centers, and community hubs across North America.

Bioblitzes are short events in which people come together to explore nature and make and share observations of the plants and animals living all around them. These events are often held in local parks and open spaces.

Bioblitzes are gatherings of scientists, citizen scientists, land managers, and more, all working together to find and identify as many different species as possible. Bioblitzes not only help land managers build a species list and atlas for their park and provide invaluable data for researchers, they also highlight the incredible biodiversity found all around us.

Backyard Wilderness Bioblitzes are open to anyone and are family-friendly. **Backyard Wilderness Bioblitzes** are powered by the app and web platform, iNaturalist. Just bring your smartphone with the iNaturalist app or your digital camera, your curiosity, and your powers of observation to help catalog the natural wonders of our parks and open spaces-our **'backyards.'**

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY TO EXPLORE YOUR BACKYARD WILDERNESS

The Backyard Wilderness Bioblitz and Citizen Science Campaign, inspired by the film, [*Backyard Wilderness*](#) will provide opportunities for people to slow down, pay attention, and make and share observations of the nature where they live...**to Explore their Backyard Wilderness.**

Partner organizations will be provided with tools, resources, and training to host Backyard Wilderness Bioblitzes. Together, through this campaign, we will connect people to nature in their backyards, front yards, parks, city streets, anywhere plants and animals can be found.

Through Backyard Wilderness Bioblitzes:

- Participants will learn what plants and animals are found in their neighborhoods and other favorite places.
- Participants will meet others from their communities interested in exploring nature.
- Participants will realize there is more biodiversity all around us than we can possibly imagine.
- Participants will collect data that are important for better city planning, park management, conservation, and science.
- Participants will use the Seek app go on a treasure hunt to discover plants and animals around them.
- Participants will continue to make and share nature observations using the iNaturalist app and website.

The California Academy of Sciences and Backyard Wilderness Teams will provide resources, materials, and trainings to help your organization's Backyard Wilderness Bioblitz be successful.

Use these resources to learn more about the Backyard Wilderness Bioblitz and Citizen Science Campaign:

1. A presentation on Backyard Wilderness Bioblitzes
2. Backyard Wilderness Bioblitz and Citizen Science Campaign Basics

3. Introduction to Bioblitz and Citizen Science Technology
4. A guide to the plants and animals most commonly observed on iNaturalist in North America

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A BACKYARD WILDERNESS BIOBLITZ?

The [California Academy of Sciences Citizen Science Team](#) will host bioblitz training webinars and you will get access to the Complete Backyard Wilderness Bioblitz Guide and Toolkit.

It includes:

1. Ten Steps to Hosting a Backyard Wilderness Bioblitz
2. Bioblitz 'Day Of' Checklist
3. A folder of resources to help set up your bioblitz
4. A folder of iNaturalist training resources
5. A guide to hosting a Seek app treasure hunt
6. A handout for the observed species from your region, including tips of where to find those species
7. Customizable 'How To Use iNaturalist' flyers
8. A 'How to use Seek' flyer
9. Conversation starters for parents and caregivers when exploring nature with children
10. Customizable templates for bioblitz flyers and posters

TAKEAWAYS

No matter if you live in the city, the suburbs, the country or somewhere in between, through bioblitzes, using iNaturalist and exploring with the new Seek app – you and your family can, like Katie from the Backyard Wilderness Film, discover the intricate secrets that nature has hidden right outside your front or back door. Slowing down, paying attention and sharing what you discover will help you experience the joy and wonder of the natural world. The film reminds us that Wi-Fi is not the only connection that matters and that sometimes in ordinary places, you can uncover extraordinary things that can transform you forever – you just need to step outside. **Backyard Wilderness Bioblitzes** are just the start of exploring YOUR Backyard Wilderness and are a great way to use that Wi-Fi connection to strengthen connections to nature, our communities, and each other.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The *Backyard Wilderness* film is a production of:

