



Washington Monument State Park 2022 Park Quest

Pollinators, native species and the dreaded invasives.

The quest will take you to different stations (see map in next page) where you will learn the relationship between pollinators and native plant species, as well as how invasive species affect our fragile pollinators. You will use technology to identify plant and pollinator species.

Mobile devices are required to complete the quest activities, downloading the iNaturalist app and the invasive species guide in advance is highly recommended.

Know before you go:

Citizen science allows everyday citizens to contribute time and data to scientific projects and it has become a popular tool for researchers. More and more citizens submit their nature observations to online databases, which in turn contribute to research across the world in biodiversity, climate change, invasive species and conservation.



iNaturalist is one of the most popular citizen science data portals. People who have observed interesting phenomena in nature can submit pictures and/or audio files of their observations to an online database.

You can upload observations online at <https://www.inaturalist.org/> or you can install the app in your mobile device and upload your observations from there. **You will need this platform for an activity in this quest. If you decide to use the app, we recommend that you install the app before your visit, as cell phone service is not very reliable in our area.**

Making observations is as simple as exploring, being curious, and taking photos of organisms (or evidence of those organisms, like tracks, nests, shells, or skulls.) The iNaturalist Artificial Intelligence (AI) will suggest possible identifications. After you upload those observations, an online community of citizens and experts reviews the submitted observations and makes identifications. iNaturalist helps anyone explore their surroundings, improves their observation skills, and connects them to a community that will help make them a better naturalist.

Follow this link to get started <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started>, and watch these videos to learn more: <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/video%252Btutorials>.

We are also going to observe and identify invasive plant species and you will need this guide to complete another quest activity:

<https://www.invasive.org/alien/pubs/midatlantic/midatlantic.pdf>. Please have it handy when you come visit us, and if you can, familiarize yourself with the species in the guide before your visit.

