



Pinelands Alliance

Life Science Field Training Institute Schedule June 23 – 26, 2026

Welcome to our 20th annual Life Science Field Training Institute. Over the past two decades more than 200 educators have trained with us to develop field studies and community science projects for schools, nature centers and communities. We are so happy you will be the next group to do so!

The schedule below is our target plan for the week. Weather and field conditions can present challenges so plan to be flexible and well prepared.

Safety and Comfort

Every day bring a rain jacket, full water bottle, insect repellent, sunblock, personal first aid needs (EpiPen, inhaler etc.), hat, bandana and anything else that will make your experience comfortable and safe.

Be sure to **check for ticks every day** - check carefully and often and place your field clothes in the laundry at the end of every day. If you do find a tick attached, follow recommended protocols for removal and keep an eye on the bite. Schedule a visit with your medical provider if you feel you need to.

Field Clothes

- A **full change of clothes** would be a good idea to keep in your vehicle.
- Closed toe shoes are a must, and we **highly recommend** long pants.
- For our **canoe trip** - quick dry layers are best. I recommend water shoes or old sneakers that will protect your feet getting in and out of the boat. A **life jacket is required** while on the river - you can bring your own if you prefer or just wear one of the Pinelands Adventures jackets.

Food

- **Please pack a lunch and snacks for each day** - consider field conditions and your individual needs when packing food items. **Bring a refillable water bottle.**

Tuesday June 23rd

Meeting Location: [Pinelands Alliance](#), 17 Pemberton Rd. (CR 616), Southampton, NJ. We will meet in the big red barn on the property of the Pinelands Alliance.

8:30 AM - Meet and Greet and Program Introduction

9:00 AM – Pinelands Alliance Tour and Staff Greeting, Rancocas Creek Farm Visit

10:00 AM - Introduction to the Ecology and Conservation of the Pine Barrens

11:00 AM - Community Science Overview and Introduction to Field Methods - Quantifying Biodiversity

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Stats and Analysis from Quadrat Study of Plant Communities

2:00 PM - Counting Species - Methods and Applications, Pollard Walk for Pollinators and Quadrat Sub-Sampling

3:45PM - Analysis and Wrap-up

Wednesday June 24th

Meeting Location: [Pine Tree Center](#), 110 Butterworths Bogs Rd, Tabernacle, NJ. In 2025, Pinelands Alliance acquired the Pine Tree Center from the Boy Scouts of America, who had operated the property since 1992. The property spans 162 acres of lush upland and wetland forests! Here, you'll find everything from classrooms and gathering spaces to overnight accommodations and campsites.

8:30 AM - Ecological Community Studies - Bird Inventory

10:30 AM - Ecological Community Studies - Species Area Curves - Comparing Habitats

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Ecological Community Studies, Releve Study - Connecting Abiotic Factors and Community Composition

3:00 PM - Invertebrate Communities - Set Pitfall Traps

Thursday June 25th

Meeting Location: [Pinelands Adventures](#), 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong, NJ 08088. *Pinelands Adventures, an initiative of the Pinelands Alliance, offers self-guided and guided nature experiences in the Pine Barrens.*

8:00 AM - Arrive for an all-day canoe adventure on the Batsto River, Field Trip Cooperative Adventure; Biodiversity and Habitats of the NJ Pine Barrens

Friday June 26th

Meeting Location: [Pine Tree Center](#), 110 Butterworths Bogs Rd, Tabernacle, NJ.

8:30 AM - Invertebrate Sampling - Collect and Analyze Pitfall Traps

10:30 AM - Climate Change and Ecological Impacts - Climate Change Bird Atlas

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Forest Ecology and Conservation - Forests, Ecosystem Services and balancing the needs of people and the planet

3:30 PM - Graduation and Farewell!



**Pinelands
Alliance**

The mission of the Pinelands Alliance is to protect and advocate for New Jersey's Pinelands through collaborative action, research and education.

We depend on donations from people like you to keep the forests and wildlife of the Pinelands protected.

Become a member today!

Donate online at www.pinelandsalliance.org/support or call us at 609-859-8860.

Learn more about our programs

