



Guidelines & Expectations for Participation in OCSCB Research

The goal of OCSCB research is to stimulate conservation-based research in Orange County. We do this by helping partner local conservation professionals, university students and faculty, and amateur research enthusiasts.

What types of projects are available?

While we welcome original project ideas, OCSCB is currently recruiting researchers for projects addressing raptor breeding biology, amphibian and reptile ecology, mammal behavior, conservation of *Dudleya stolonifera*, and Trabuco Creek trout conservation and habitat restoration.

Who is eligible to participate?

Anyone is welcome to participate. We especially encourage amateur naturalists and university students to get involved. ***Because of the time and effort required to train new researchers, we require a minimum commitment of 3 hours per week over a 3 month period.***

Additionally, the University of California at Irvine maintains an active undergraduate biological research program where students earn course credit for doing independent research. Students interested in addressing conservation questions are encouraged to talk with us about project ideas and we can suggest faculty members that may be appropriate advisors. ***Ultimately however, it is the decision of the faculty member to support the proposed research for course credit; OCSCB has no official connection with the undergraduate research program at UCI.***

Expectations

Carrying out conservation-based research requires collaboration among researchers, conservation professionals, mentors, and land-owners. Before starting a project, specific expectations should be stated and agreed upon by all members of the research group. ***In addition to these agreements, OCSCB has outlined several general expectations of all research group members.***

Researcher:

1. Write a research proposal including a budget
2. Carry out the work outlined in the research proposal
3. Maintain a log of hours worked and submit to coordinator at each meeting
4. Attend a chapter workshop on grant writing and apply for research funding (one grant per quarter)
5. Upon completion of the project, submit a copy of the raw data and a written summary that includes relevant background, methods, and results sections
6. Report project findings at an OCSCB chapter meeting

****Note to student researchers enrolled in the undergraduate research program at UCI: The University has its own set of standards and policies for students participating in independent research. It is the student's responsibility to know and meet these additional requirements and those set forth by the sponsoring faculty member. For more information, visit: <http://www.bio.uci.edu/students/StudentAffairs/bio199.html>.***

Research coordinator (duties are specific to individual project):

1. Mentor researcher(s) (e.g. biweekly meeting)
2. Assist with finding supplies, field sites, and lab space
3. Meet with conservation professional(s) and faculty advisor on a regular basis
4. Assist researcher in applying for research funds (one grant per quarter)
5. Recruit new researchers
6. Keep track of student hours

Conservation professional (e.g. Audubon Society biologist):

1. Train and mentor researcher(s) (e.g. biweekly meeting)
2. Provide needed supplies

Faculty advisor:

1. Mentor researcher(s) (e.g. biweekly meeting)
2. Provide needed supplies and lab space

OCSCB research committee chairs:

1. Keep informed of and report research progress to members during monthly meetings
2. Identify and apply for general research funds (one grant per quarter).
3. Initiate involvement with and/or design new and interesting research projects.

All parties are also required to sign a release of liability form before initiating any research.

For more information, visit our website at www.ocscb.org and/or contact Riley Pratt (pratrr@uci.edu)