

# RI BIOBLITZ FAQ

## WHAT'S A BIOBLITZ?

Volunteers, working in teams, have 24 hours to tally as many species of animals and plants as they can on a particular parcel of land. The BioBlitz idea was started in 1996 and they are now held all over the U.S. and the world. The Rhode Island BioBlitz has been held annually since 2000.

## WHY BIOBLITZ?

- 1) to demonstrate that great biodiversity can be found anywhere, not just in distant rain forests;
- 2) by example to show how biologists learn about species and the environment;
- 3) to encourage communication among all those knowledgeable about our environment;
- 4) to survey the species on the property for planning and conservation purposes;
- 5) because it's really fun.

## WHEN AND WHERE IS RHODE ISLAND BIOBLITZ 2024?

From 2 p.m., Friday, June 7 until 2 p.m., Saturday, June 8, no stopping...rain or shine.  
Norman Bird Sanctuary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Beach Rd., Middletown.

## DO I HAVE TO STAY FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME?

No! Come when you can, stay as long as you want. You can come for 5 minutes just to say “howdy” or stay the whole time. You can even volunteer just for setup Friday AM or cleanup Saturday PM.

## DO I HAVE TO BE A SCIENTIST OR AN EXPERT TO PARTICIPATE?

No! Professionals, amateurs, students, raw but sincere enthusiasm...any skill level is welcome.

## HOW DO THE TEAMS WORK?

Everyone must have a team assignment (see rinhs.org for a list of suggested teams). When you pre-register, you can specify a team or we will place you with one that fits your interests and needs the kind of help you can offer. Some teams already have leaders, others are looking for willing leaders so feel free to take up that challenge if you are inclined.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PARTICIPATE?

- 1) Be pre-qualified by RINHS by attending previous bioblitzes or one of the BioBlitz orientations, or otherwise communicating your interest and expertise;
- 2) Pre-register, including payment of a small registration fee to help cover event costs;
- 3) You must have a team assignment;
- 4) At check-in you must sign liability and photo waivers and agree to follow the safety rules.

## DO I HAVE TO STICK WITH MY TEAM?

No. Your team leader will expect you to help when needed, but many participants visit with different teams throughout the BioBlitz. Trying different things is what it's all about!

## CAN CHILDREN PARTICIPATE?

Absolutely. They are encouraged! Children need to be accompanied by an adult during their stay.

## WHAT ABOUT OVERNIGHT?

We bioblitz through the night. Some people go home to sleep, some sleep in their cars, some bring tents and camp in the designated area (and some don't sleep at ALL).

## FOOD?

Dinner Friday is available for an extra fee. There is a continental breakfast Saturday for those who stayed through the night. Coffee is free throughout the event. There is no lunch Saturday.

## ALCOHOL? FIRES? DOGS? DRONES? AMPLIFIED MUSIC? FIREARMS?

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, and NO!

## REGISTRATION RUNS FROM APRIL 26 to May 22

For photos, rules and waivers, registration information, and more: [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org)

For more information contact the Survey office: 401-874-5800 or email [programadmin@rinhs.org](mailto:programadmin@rinhs.org)