

California Certified Botanist Continuing Education

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

Certification as either a Certified Field Botanist or Consulting Botanist will expire after 5 years from January 1st following successfully passing the exams. To renew certification, the certified botanist must earn at least fifty (50) credits before the end of 5 years. The Board of Certification (BOC) will notify participants before their certification expires.

Certification examinations will not be required for renewal, other than certification for a higher level (e.g. Field Botanist to Consulting Botanist). As part of the recertification process, continuing professional development is required. The goal of professional development is to broaden the background and enthusiasm of certified botanists with a focus on needs as well as interests. Fifty (50) Professional Development Credits (PDCs) must be completed before renewal and must be earned during the prior to the end of the fifth year. Subject areas will include (but not be limited to): professional ethics, plant taxonomy, plant ecology, plant identification, floristics, survey methods, assessment methods, mitigation methods, and environmental laws and regulations. PDCs will be accepted only from authorized providers or for courses and activities pre-approved by the BOC. A list of accepted providers and activities will be available on the California Consulting Botanist (CCB) Certification website.

There are five categories of activities through which Professional Development Credits (PDCs) can be earned. In general, 7-8 credits can be earned through 2-4 days of classroom or workshop activities, not including travel time. Credits earned via other types of activities vary according to the level of effort required. The categories of activities listed below are examples of the types of activities and amount of credits earned.

- 1) Instruction (attending classes, workshops, on-line courses)
 - Classroom instruction (3-4 credits per 8 hours)
 - Field workshop (2-3 credits per 8-hour day)
 - 1-day field trip/plant hikes (1 credit) – field time must exceed 6 hours resulting in a written checklist of plants observed (vascular plants, bryophytes, and/or lichens)
- 2) Teaching (classes, workshops)
 - Classroom or field instruction (2 × credits for attending)
- 3) Publishing, presentations, posters
 - First author of an article in a journal or conference proceedings (10 credits)
 - Secondary author of an article in a journal or conference proceedings (2 credits)
 - Refereeing an article for a journal or conference proceedings (5 credits)
 - Giving a presentation at a conference or meeting (5 credits)
- 4) Conferences and Symposia
 - Attending a conference or symposium (2 credits per full day of attendance)
- 5) Professional Service
 - Holding elected or appointed office in professional societies and other organizations related to professional activities (i.e. CNPS, local CNPS chapters, other botanical societies) (5 credits per year of service)

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- Actively serving on committees in professional societies and other organizations related to professional activities (2 credits per year of service).

Providers of classroom and workshops can receive authorization by providing the BOC with the following basic information:

- Instructor (a short [2-3 sentences] biographic statement detailing the instructors qualifications);
- Course Offering (1 paragraph description of the course content and goals);
- Duration (in-class vs. field).

The BOC advises certified botanists to obtain credits through one or more of the methods identified above each year, rather than waiting until the end of the fifth year. Each certified individual is responsible for submitting proof of attendance or activity to the BOC. CNPS will maintain a record of each certified individual's credits on behalf of the BOC, based on materials submitted by the certified individual.

For more information, contact the Board of Certification chair at botcert@cnps.org