

**BIOBLITZ!
OKLAHOMA**



**2018
PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE**

Thank you
for registering
for this year's
annual celebration of
Oklahoma's biodiversity!
The BioBlitz! coordinators, the
Oklahoma Biological Survey, and
Oklahoma State Parks welcome
you to a fun and educational
weekend of exploring an
Oklahoma natural area.



Greenleaf State Park, October 5-7



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

2:00 p.m. Packet Pick Up begins
4:00 p.m. 24 Hour Inventory begins
4:00 p.m. Biodiversity Activities begin
5:10 p.m. Moonset, 16% illuminated
6:58 p.m. Sunset

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

4:22 a.m. Moonrise, 8.3% illuminated
7:19 a.m. Sunrise
7:30-9:00 a.m. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and bagels
3:45 p.m. Turn in species lists to Taxa Team Leaders
4:00 p.m. Inventory Ends
4:10 p.m. BioBlitz! Celebration
4:15 p.m. Announcements of the Talley of Species and
Location of BioBlitz! 2019
5:51 p.m. Moonset
6:57 p.m. Sunset

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

5:30 a.m. Moonrise, 2.9% illuminated
7:20 a.m. Sunrise

**DETAILED
ACTIVITY
SCHEDULE IS
AVAILABLE AS A
SEPARATE
DOCUMENT.**

**BIOBLITZ! 2018 BASE CAMP WILL BE AT THE
WHISPERING WINDS REUNION CENTER
NEAR THE MARINA AND BOAT DOCK. PARTICIPANTS ARE
REQUIRED TO CHECK IN WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT BIOBLITZ!**

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN BIOBLITZ! OKLAHOMA?

GUIDELINES FOR EXPERT BIOLOGISTS

Expert Biologists may collect, observe, and inventory organisms in their taxa group. They will be responsible for identification of organisms.

Expert biologists will interact with Citizen Scientists by:

- Leading group activities and supervise collecting by Citizen Scientists
- Giving talks about their area of expertise
- Instilling a conservation ethic regarding the collection of organisms and use of the natural area

Because of their knowledge and expertise, Expert Biologists are allowed to:

- Handle and collect vertebrate animals
- Collect and preserve invertebrate animals
- Collect and preserve plants and plant material

Expert Biologists are required to:

Release all vertebrate animals in the area in which they were captured. With prior permission and proper state and federal permits, vertebrates may be kept for specimens. Please contact BioBlitz! coordinator, Priscilla Crawford, 405-255-8106, if interested in retaining vertebrate specimens.

EXPERT BIOLOGIST IDENTIFICATION AND EXHIBIT AREA

The Community Building (Whispering Winds Reunion Center) will be used for identification and exhibit areas. Tables, chairs, electricity, and water are all available in the building. Signs will be posted near tables to help people to find taxa groups and expert biologists.

We have a variety of aquaria, terraria, and specimen vials for holding and displaying animals. Ask at the registration table if you need any.



GUIDELINES FOR CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

Citizen Scientists may conduct inventories on their own by:


- Getting checklists of taxa at Base Camp and marking off what they see
- Taking pictures of observed species and having them identified by expert biologists
- Using iNaturalist app to make observations that can be identified by experts

Interact with Expert Biologists by:

- Attending any of the scheduled activities
- Chatting with them at Base Camp
- Observing their collections at Base Camp
- Getting help with identification of photographed organisms

As Citizen Scientists you are encouraged to participate in the biological inventory.

To protect organisms from harm and needless death, Citizen Scientists are only allowed to collect organisms when accompanied by or under the supervision of an Expert Biologist. For example, collecting mammals when participating in the Detecting Mammals activity or collecting plants when with an expert botanist. ***Citizen Scientists are NOT allowed to collect any vertebrate animals or whole plants.***



Lists of species should be brought to Base Camp and delivered to the Taxa Team Leader no later than 3:45 P.m. on Saturday to be included in the inventory total.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO I NEED FOR BIOBLITZ?

THINGS TO BRING

While we can't list all things you might need or want, here is a list of suggested items that you might find useful while attending BioBlitz!

Remember you are responsible for your own camping and personal equipment.

Camping equipment, including:

- Tent and bedding
- Camp chair
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Food
- Mug, plate, utensils, and bottle for water

Clothing and personal items, including:

- Sturdy shoes
- Hat
- Long pants
- Towel and toiletries
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent

Be sure to check the weather forecast and be prepared for a variety of conditions. BioBlitz! has seen daytime highs in the 90s and night time lows in the 30s, fierce winds and rain, and hot sun and grey skies.

You don't need a bunch of special equipment to participate in BioBlitz!, but a few things can certainly enhance your experience. Equipment to observe, collect, and identify organisms, including:

- Binoculars
- Hand-lens or magnifying glass
- Identification guides and taxonomic keys
- Nets for terrestrial and aquatic organisms
- Camera
- Notebook, clipboard and paper, and writing utensils
- Enthusiasm for learning more about Oklahoma's biodiversity!



THINGS YOU CAN CHECK OUT

Some of the equipment that you might use during BioBlitz! can be checked out at the Registration Table so that you don't need to purchase them. Be aware, we have a limited supply of all items.

- Binoculars (suitable for adults and children)
- Field Guides (variety of taxa)
- Clipboards
- Headlamps
- Insect nets
- Aquatic nets
- Terraria
- Hand lens
- Orange safety vests

To reduce the number of lost items, we will be asking that you leave a form of ID (driver's licence, student ID card, etc) as a deposit for valuable items borrowed.

FOOD, HOUSING, & CELLULAR SERVICE

STAYING OVERNIGHT

Camping

Free tent camping is available to all registrants on both Friday and Saturday nights. BioBlitz! tent camping will be in the Eagle's Nest and Lake View tent camping areas near Base Camp. Camping outside of this area will subject you to additional camping fees. Participants need to provide their own camping equipment. There will be fire rings and grills in the tent area for communal use. There will be limited picnic tables in the tenting area. You are encouraged to bring your own camp chairs. You will be able to park on the grass near your tent. There are running water restrooms near the tent area and at Base Camp. Pay showers can be found in the Cypress Row and Gobbler's Ridge camping loops. Cost is about \$1.00, depending on the length of your shower.

RV camping is available within the State Park. Additional fee will be charged.

Cabins

Greenleaf State Park has cabins for rent. You need to contact the park directly to make reservations, 918-487-5196.



MEALS & FOOD

We will not be providing an evening meal this year, but we will be having:

Friday S'mores

A s'more making station will be set up Friday evening for everyone to make their own campfire treat!

Saturday morning beverages and bagels

Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Variety of bagel flavors, cream cheese, and peanut butter will be available for a light breakfast on Saturday morning. Individuals with restrictive diets are encouraged to provide their own breakfast. **BRING YOUR OWN MUG!**

All other meals and snacks are the responsibility of participants.

Greenleaf Marina and Grill

Will be open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday. They have a small store stocked with basic camp supplies and a kitchen offering a variety of grill items for lunch and breakfast.



CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

Coverage is spotty in the State Park. Do not expect to get service in at Base Camp or tenting area. You will have the best service on high points throughout the park.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

SEVERE STORMS

BioBlitz! will not be canceled due to rain. However, severe weather (lightning, tornadoes, flooding, etc) may cause activities to be limited during the event. Although less likely than other times of year, severe weather can occur in October and you should know what to do in case of hazardous weather. Forecasts and weather will be monitored by BioBlitz! staff throughout the event. However, participants are encouraged to be responsible for their own safety and stay informed. Download and use weather warning and lightning alert apps for smart phones, use a weather radio, and be aware of the conditions during the event weekend.

In case of high winds - be aware of hanging dead limbs in the wooded areas that could fall during wind events.

In case of lightning - all participants should seek indoor shelter if you observe lightning or hear thunder. There is no safe place outdoors when a thunderstorm is nearby. If you are in the field, you should return to the Base Camp as soon as possible. Stay away from tall trees, towers, or utility poles. Avoid open areas and high locations.

In case of tornado threat - all participants should seek safety inside a sturdy building,. Do not get in your vehicle for shelter. If you are in the field and a tornado is imminent, you should lie in a low area and cover your head.

In case of heavy rain and flooding - avoid flowing water, including creeks, ditches, ravines, and storm drains. Do not drive across flooded roads.



HEAT AND DEHYDRATION

It may finally be autumn, but the afternoons can still be hot and sunny! Be cautious of heat and over exertion; compounded together may cause an increased chance for heat related problems. Wear a hat, light-colored clothing, and drink plenty of water. Don't wait until you get thirsty to drink water!

VENOMOUS SNAKES

Be aware that there are several species of venomous snakes in the area. Always take a buddy into the field with you. Wear boots and loose-fitting pants if you are venturing into venomous snake territory. Try your best to not surprise a snake. Watch where you place your hands and feet, especially when climbing or stepping over objects such as large rocks, and logs.

HUNTING

BioBlitz! is held during archery season for deer. Hunting is not allowed in Greenleaf State Park, but is permissible on military and private land surrounding the park. BioBlitz! participants should follow a few precautions: If going out early in the morning or late in the afternoon, wear blaze orange. Safety vests are available at the Registration Table. If possible, make noise while out in the field (yes, we realize this is counter productive for some of you!).



FIRST AID

A basic first aid kit and mobile defibrillator will be available at Base Camp. There will be certified CPR and First Aid volunteers to help if needed.

LOCAL HOSPITAL

Saint Francis Hospital, 2900 N. Main St., Muskogee, OK 74401. Approximately 22 miles, 30 minutes travel time.

Directions: From Greenleaf Park Entrance, head north on Hwy 10. Go 15 miles, turn left (west) on Hwy US 62 W. Travel 5.3 miles, turn right (north) onto Main St. At approximately 1 mile, hospital will be on right.

In an Emergency, call 911. If you have no phone service, go to Base Camp or Park Office to alert staff.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I have never been to BioBlitz! and I am not a biologist. How can I participate?

A: As a new Citizen Scientist, we recommend that you attend a few of the scheduled activities that appeal to you. You will also see Expert Biologists at Base Camp identifying organisms. You are encouraged to chat with them to learn more. When you are more knowledgeable, you can explore on your own, taking a checklist of your favorite taxa groups. Take pictures of things you see and bring them back to Base Camp to be identified and added to the inventory.

Q: Can I attend just one day?

A: Yes! You can attend as little or as much as you would like when you register for BioBlitz!

Q: What is included in the registration?

A: As part of your registration fee you get two nights camping in group site and Friday night s'mores. As a registered participant, you may attend all scheduled activities, interact with Expert Biologists, and have a weekend of biodiversity fun and education. T-shirts are extra.

Q: Do I have to attend all the activities?

A: No, in fact because of scheduling, you will not be able to attend all scheduled activities. You should attend activities that interest you, but don't feel obligated to always be at a scheduled activity. Sometimes it is good just to wander on your own, or have a chat with the biologists at in the classrooms.

Q: How many people usually attend?

A: We generally have 250 to 350 people attend BioBlitz! Of those usually 40-50 are Expert Biologists who are there to lead the Citizen Scientists in activities and identification.

Q: Where do I go for the scheduled activities?

A: Activities will meet at Base Camp near the Community Building, look for the sign indicating the meeting spot. Some activities will walk from there or caravan by vehicle to a different area. Occasionally, an activity will meet somewhere else. Please look at the schedule to be sure you know the meeting place.

Q: Will dishes be provided at meals?

A: Dishes and utensils will not be provided. Be sure to bring your own mug!

Q: I took a picture of something that I can't identify. What do I do?

A: Find an expert biologist knowledgeable with that group of species. Taxa Team Leaders are listed at Base Camp and have bright colored name tags. Ask BioBlitz! staff at the Registration Table to help you find someone to identify your pictures. Be sure that it gets added to the taxa list so that it is counted in the inventory.

Q: What do I do with my checklist of organisms that I found?

A: Lists of species should be brought to the Registration Table and given to the Inventory Coordinator no later than 3:45 p.m. on Saturday to be included in the inventory total.

Q: Can I bring my dog to BioBlitz!?

A: Yes, however, we request that you do not bring pets to scheduled activities or into the Community Center. All pets must be on a leash and under your control.

Q: I didn't order a t-shirt, but decided I would like one. Can I buy one at the event?

A: There will be a small number of extra shirts available during the event, but to be sure you get one, please order by September 20. After that date, there are no guarantees!