

BioBlitz @ Country Parks: BioBlitz @ Country Parks For All

Rules and Guidelines

"BioBlitz @ Country for All" (the BioBlitz) is a self-initiated BioBlitz survey which encourage participants to explore and learn about the biodiversity of country parks independently in their own time. During the "BioBlitz @ Country Parks For All" event period, participants can visit the four selected country parks and special areas, take pictures of wildlife, upload photos to this project and complete the designated tasks to collect souvenirs.

The aims of the BioBlitz are:

- To raise awareness and appreciation of the biodiversity of the country parks and the importance of conservation efforts.
- To engage the public in citizen science and provide an opportunity for them to directly contribute to establishing species inventory within designated country parks.
- To provide a knowledge exchange experience among people of all ages and backgrounds, including school groups, general public and local experts through the online platform – iNaturalist.

Activity Details

Date: 19th August 2023 to 17th September 2023

Locations: Shing Mun Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, Lions Nature Education Centre and Tai Tam Country Park (Quarry Bay Extension)

Registration Details

Target: General Public aged 9 years old or above

Registration Period: 18th June 2023 to 17th September 2023 (23:59)

Registration Form:

https://eservice2.afcd.gov.hk/forms/955/947/947.php?form_id=955&template_id=947&lang=en

Terms & Conditions

1. Participants shall have an iNaturalist account (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>) to participate in the event.
2. Each person can only use one iNaturalist account to participate in the event.
3. There is no limit to the number of users using the same registered iNaturalist account to record observations. However, souvenirs will be distributed based on the iNaturalist account as one unit.
4. The same observation record (i.e., records derived from the same photo) cannot be uploaded to different iNaturalist accounts. If such a case is discovered, the organiser reserves the right to cancel the record.
5. Participants who are 12 years old or younger are recommended to be accompanied by a person who is 18 years old or older.
6. Participants should wear appropriate outdoor footwear and clothing, bring sufficient drinking water, personal hiking equipment, sun protection, and rain gear, etc.
7. Pay attention to safety and please read the Country Park Hiking Safety Guidelines (https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/country/cou_vis/cou_vis_gac/cou_wha_whe_sat.html) before the event.
8. Please check the weather conditions before and during the outdoor activity through the Hong Kong Observatory, television, radio, etc. If adverse weather conditions are expected or encountered, it is recommended to cancel the activity.
9. The outdoor activity should be immediately canceled under the following circumstances:
 - Tropical cyclone warning signals are hoisted.
 - Amber, red, or black rainstorm warning signals are hoisted.
 - Thunderstorm forecast/warning.
10. The organiser reserves the right to change the rules/content of the event. The latest updates will be announced on the website www.natureintouch.gov.hk. No separate notification will be given.

Code of conducts

- Do not pick or damage plants, and do not disturb or capture animals.
- Do not touch wild animals, bird feathers, or their excrement. Wash hands immediately after the activity.
- Maintain an appropriate distance from wildlife and their habitats to minimise disturbance.
- Respect nature: Care for the natural environment and reduce disruptions to the natural surroundings. Use maintained and designated trails, and avoid creating new paths through the forest.
- Respect others: Show consideration and be mindful of others. Keep noise levels low. Use reusable water bottles, utensils, and towels.
- Minimise waste: Carry out your own trash and reduce the generation of garbage.

Activity Procedure

- Download iNaturalist mobile app or use the iNaturalist website (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>) to register an iNaturalist account
- Complete the online registration form (https://eservice2.afcd.gov.hk/forms/955/947/947.php?form_id=955&template_id=947&lang=en) by providing your email address and iNaturalist account name.
- Pay attention to all emails related to the event and carefully read the attached documents and links for preparation.
- Between 19th August 2023, and 17th September 2023, visit the designated country parks and special areas on your own.
- Use a mobile phone or camera to take photographic records of wild species.
- Upload the photos to the iNaturalist before 24th September 2023.
- The successfully uploaded records will be included in the dedicated iNaturalist project page for the event.

Photographic Record Requirements

- The records must be taken within the event period, starting from 00:00 AM on 19th August 2023, and ending at 11:59 PM on 17th September 2023.
- The records must be uploaded to iNaturalist before 11:59 PM on 24th September 2023.
- The records must be within the designated areas of Shing Mun Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, Lions Nature Education Centre, and Tai Tam Country Park (Quarry Bay Extension Section). The specific boundaries should be determined by the iNaturalist project.
- The records must consist of wild animals. Records of humans, poultry, livestock, or pets will not be accepted.
- The records must represent identifiable wild species.
- It is encouraged to document through photography. Only videos or audio recordings of animal calls will not be accepted.
- Document the whole animal. Records of deceased animals, animal carcasses/limbs, animal tracks, or nests will not be accepted.
- The organiser reserves the final decision-making authority regarding all aspects of the event.

Souvenir Distribution Details

Souvenirs will be distributed by mail after the completion of the identifying process. The organiser will notify all awardees via email within one month after the event concludes, in order to arrange the mailing process. No emails will be received if the participants do not meet the requirement for the awards.

Souvenirs (1 piece)	Requirements
BioBlitz @ Country Parks For All Badge Collection Board & Bioblitz Badge	Record at least 1 morphospecies ¹ within designated country parks ²
Location Badge (Shing Mun Country Park)	Record at least 30 morphospecies ¹ within Shing Mun Country Park ²
Location Badge (Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve)	Record at least 30 morphospecies ¹ within Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve ²
Location Badge (Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre)	Record at least 30 morphospecies ¹ in Tai Tam Country Park (Quarry Bay Extension) ²
Location Badge (Lions Nature Education Centre)	Record at least 30 morphospecies ¹ within Lions Nature Education Centre
Animal Badge (Amphibians and Reptile)	Record at least 5 morphospecies ¹ from the taxa amphibian and reptile
Animal Badge (Butterfly)	Record at least 10 morphospecies ¹ from the taxon butterfly
Animal Badge (Beetle)	Record at least 10 morphospecies ¹ from the taxon beetle
Animal Badge (Spider)	Record at least 5 morphospecies ¹ from the taxon spider
Special Record Badge (Predation)	Complete the special record task
Special Record Badge (Mating)	Complete the special record task
Special Record Badge (Camouflage)	Complete the special record task

¹ Morphological species refers to the classification of species based on significant differences in biological morphological characteristics.

² The activity scope will adhere to the boundaries established by relevant iNaturalist projects.

Adjudication Panel

The organiser invited local ecologists/experts to assist in verifying all records. In the event of any disputes, the organizer reserves the final decision-making authority.

Members:

Taxon Group	Tentative member
Bird	Representative from Hong Kong Bird Watching Society – Mr. Kenneth Lam
Amphibian and Reptiles	MPhil Graduate, Lingnan University – Mr. Ivan Lam
Insect – Lepidoptera (butterfly)	PhD candidate, The University of Hong Kong – Mr. Yuet Fung Ling
Insect – Lepidoptera (moth)	Co-founder of Project CROW – Ms. Hoiling Cheng
Insect - Hemiptera and Coleoptera	Representatives from Hong Kong Entomological Society – Mr. To Chan
Insect - Hymenoptera (Ant)	Research Assistant Professor, Science Unit, Lingnan University – Dr. Roger Lee
Insect - Hymenoptera (Bee and Wasp)	Local Hymenoptera expert – Mr. Christophe Barthélémy
Spider	Biology Teacher, Ho Koon Nature Education cum Astronomical Centre – Mr. Dickson Wong
General	Representatives from Outdoor Wildlife Learning Hong Kong Limited – Mr. Bond Shum

(Last Update: 25th August 2023)