

Ecology and Natural History of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve
Biology 105/Earth Systems 105

The Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (JRBP) is a 481 hectare (1,189 acre) field station located just a few miles from the main Stanford University campus. JRBP lands have been studied continuously since the university opened in 1891, and this extensive research history includes long-term studies that are landmarks in ecology and population biology. In 1975, Jasper Ridge began developing community education programs that would enhance educational opportunities for both the university and the community. The first docents were community members knowledgeable about the Preserve's natural history and willing to contribute their time and expertise to students and community education by teaching and leading tours. In 1977, Stanford University students were incorporated into the docent program and a formal, rigorous class was established.

Biology 105/Earth Systems 105, the JRBP docent training class, is a 4 unit Stanford University class that runs through winter and spring quarter. Classes are Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Community members in the class are not registered with the University and do not pay tuition. There is a class fee of \$90.00 for community members and \$50.00 for Stanford students to cover the cost of class materials. Bio 105 A/B covers a significant amount of curricula in two quarters, including intensive classes in the fields of geology, soil science, ecology, global climate change, archaeology, botany, herpetology, ornithology, among others. New topics are covered weekly with a lecture from Stanford faculty or experts in the topic followed by hands-on fieldwork. The lectures cannot be made up if missed and all students must be committed to be present every week.

After completing the course work, newly graduated JRBP docents are expected to help and provide field education opportunities and increase community awareness of the work done at JRBP. All JR affiliates are welcome to attend JR continuing education classes throughout the year such as brown bag lunch discussions, field classes and lectures. All of these continuing events provide an overview of current research on JRBP, relevant work at other sites, and specialized fieldwork. JR docents/affiliates have opportunities to work with researchers and some projects at JRBP are managed entirely by docents. For many years, members of the JRBP community have conducted regular bird surveys and produced invaluable bird lists and databases. JR affiliates efforts have also responsible for the outstanding teaching collection in the JRBP Herbarium, the insect collection, geology display and bat research.

What do the JRBP docents get in return for doing all this?

- A chance to be part of the JRBP community.
- An opportunity for stimulating continuing education.
- The reward of working personally in environmental education, ecology, and research.
- A key to Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

The deadline for submitting an application is October 18th for community member applicants and November 1st for Stanford students.

If you are interested in an application for (Bio/Esys105A/B) contact: Jorge Ramos, Associate Director for Environmental Education at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (jorge.ramos@stanford.edu).