

BIOBLITZ BANFF 2018 Saturday, May 5, 2018 (weather date: May 12th) 8:45 am – 4:00 pm

What is a BioBlitz?

A good place to start is to watch a 2 minute video produced by the Canadian Wildlife Federation about BioBlitz Canada 150. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEk_of1pGqs

A BioBlitz is an intensive survey of living things “in a given area” within a set time, usually within the span of 24 hours or less. The BioBlitz format enables members of the public, young and old, to participate in a survey with a scientist-led team and to contribute to ongoing ecological monitoring programs. Across Canada, many BioBlitz events take place each year with many located in our National Parks.

What is BioBlitz Banff 2018 in Banff National Park? What will we be monitoring and how?

- On May 5th, members of the public will become “Citizen Scientists” as they work alongside conservationists and specialists in conducting an inventory of amphibians at 20-25 sites close to Banff in the Bow Valley. (Rain date is May 12th). Each site survey will take approximately 2 – 2 1/2 hours to conduct.
- Small groups (3-5 members of the public per group led by a trained scientist/survey leader and a volunteer assistant survey leader) will follow scientific sampling protocol as they search for the eggs of two types of frog, one type of toad and a salamander. These amphibians are one of the measures of the health of freshwater systems included in Banff’s Ecological Integrity long-term condition monitoring program.
- Four buses will transport participants to and from the survey sites. Riding on each bus, in addition to public participants, survey leaders and survey leaders, will be event hosts (volunteers) to assist bus riders and the bus drivers.
- The Cave and Basin National Historic Site will serve as Base Camp and the site for free snacks, hot beverages, for all participants (public, volunteers, scientists, guests). At Base Camp additional activities for families with children too young to participate in the Field Surveys (Leave No Trace, Mountain WIT Bison interactive program, Art Jam, Mini Amphibian Survey) will be offered 10 am – 3 pm. Field Survey participants must be 10 years and older.
- Key to BioBlitz and to ours in Banff is the recording and sharing of data collected. To this end, we use “iNaturalist” (<http://inaturalist.ca/projects/parks-canada-bioblitz-2018-banff-bioblitz-2018-de-parcs-canada-banff>) a bilingual, interactive online record of the amazing variety of life in our vast country. Anyone in the world can explore the photos, make species identifications or add comments on the website. The result is an exciting network of scientists and the public, creating data to support conservation decisions.
- At the Cave and Basin National Historic Site (Base Camp), public participants, with the support of Banff National Park IT personnel and volunteers, will enter their data using iPads and cell phone apps at the “iNaturalist” IT tent. Immediately, in real-time, they have joined the ranks of hundreds of Citizen Scientists in supporting and protecting our Canadian heritage for generations to come!

How to register?

- **General Public** – for field survey: sign up as “BioBlitz Participant” (you & your family will be assigned to a Survey Leader) <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/parks-canada-bioblitz-2018-banff-bioblitz-2018-de-parcs-canada-banff-registration-42286931350> It is not necessary to sign up for Base Camp Only (non- field survey) activities – all public welcome to attend these.
- **Survey Leader / Survey Assistant Leader** (naturalists & scientists, plus Banff National Park regular volunteers). Sign up at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/RTD8F>

Questions?

Contact Tina Barzo

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