



## Guidelines for a safe Home River Bioblitz

If you are thinking about leading a bioblitz around your local river, this guide will help you to get started on preparing your event. It gives advice on what to think about, and helps you set up a safe activity in the context of the global pandemic. It is however dependent on your local situation and on your own ideas how you choose to organise it.

### Outline of the event

The Home River Bioblitz is an event that consists of three elements. On the 20th of September, we go out and EXPLORE our home river environments and their inhabitants. Between the 21st and 25th of September we will IDENTIFY the observed species with the support of the iNaturalist community. On the 28th of September we CHAT about the observations and experience made worldwide during an online recap of the event.

### Prepare your Home River Bioblitz

Most of your preparation goes into the field day on the 20th of September. This day you go out to your home river and observe as many species as you can find. On the 31st of August, we welcome you to an online Bioblitz/iNaturalist training session. But your preparations can start already today! If you haven't done so yet, make sure to download iNaturalist and start doing some observations, this way you will get used to the application.

Next, call your best river friend and start brewing on ideas. Number of participants, length of the activity and size of the surveyed area are all dependent on your own energy. If you want to do something small with your family or friends, please go ahead! If you are thinking big, involving other people (as long as it fits within the space that COVID-19 allows) don't hesitate in doing so, we will do our best to support you!

### Some practical advices

- a) Pick a location. Choose your favorite part of the river or stream, whatever you see fit! The ideal place is by the river, but we understand that rivers are part of watersheds, containing creeks, wetlands, lakes, forest and a large biodiversity.
- b) Choose a meeting point. Preferably easy to reach by bike or public transport.
- c) Pick a timeframe. You may do 2, 3, or 4 hours, depending on your logistics. We encourage you to make it a full day. Once you start exploring, there is no end to it!

- d) Decide who and how many people you can invite. This depends a lot on your local COVID-19 situation (e.g. it could just be household members or slightly larger if allowed).
- e) Register your event through [this form](#) asap, but on the 30th of August at the latest. This way we can upload it on the map and contact you to add the information to the iNaturalist project. If you register late, your observations might not be counted as part of the Home River Bioblitz project, which would simply be a pity!
- f) Partner up with a biodiversity expert that can help you look in places you did not think of before. Maybe someone in your community or try reaching out to a closeby university.

**Note:** We urge all participants to carefully follow public health guidelines provided by your local government, as they are changing real-time. Individual safety and public health are of utmost priority. Some recommendations from our side:

- Keep safe distance at all times
- Split up in small groups (you could make groups that focus on different taxonomic groups or set time slots)
- Avoid crowds
- Wear face masks accordingly
- Bring hand sanitizer

**Safety first!** Rivers, though wonderful, can also be dangerous places, especially if the water level is high. Please make sure you know all about the safety aspects of the area or river bank that you will be exploring and share this information with your group. This includes whether the river is safe to swim in and the possibility of flash floods.

For more tips on organising your own bioblitz, have a look at the [National Geographic Encyclopedia](#). To learn about iNaturalist, head over to [their website](#).

If you are going to lead a bioblitz, remember to join the online Bioblitz/iNaturalist training offered to you on the 31st of August, 6pm CET. This will help you prepare the Bioblitz in more detail. In case this time is inconvenient for you, please get in touch with us.

We also invite you to a virtual Explorers meetup with the bioblitz leaders and other NatGeo Explorers connected to water on the 21st September.

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with Vera ([vera@rivercollective.org](mailto:vera@rivercollective.org)) or Jens ([jens.benohr@gmail.com](mailto:jens.benohr@gmail.com)).

**We wish you a happy Home River Bioblitz! :)**

**The River Collective Team**

More information on [www.homeriverbioblitz.org](http://www.homeriverbioblitz.org)