

# JOIN THE VERNAL POOL PATROL

Engaging Youth in  
Community Science



COORDINATED BY THE MICHIGAN  
NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY  
PART OF THE MICHIGAN VERNAL POOLS  
PARTNERSHIP



Michigan  
Vernal Pools  
Partnership

**The Vernal Pool Patrol** is an exciting and informative way to reinforce ecosystem concepts and provide an outdoor, place-based learning and citizen science opportunity for students in the fifth grade and older. Through the program, students collect data about vernal pools that will contribute to a statewide effort to enhance our understanding and conservation of these important wetlands in Michigan.

THE VERNAL POOL PATROL HELPS  
MEET NEXTGEN SCIENCE  
STANDARDS!

# YOUR STUDENTS COLLECT REAL SCIENTIFIC DATA!



- **Vernal pools** are temporary wetlands that typically hold water in the spring and dry out in the summer or fall.
- Because they lack fish predators, these wetlands provide critical breeding habitat for amphibians and invertebrates and potential habitat for over 500 wildlife species in Michigan.
- More information is needed to manage and conserve these wetlands, hence the need for student scientists!

## TIMELINE OF VERNAL POOL MONITORING ACTIVITIES

### PRIOR TO STARTING PROGRAM

Educator contacts MNFI and/or local partner to attend Vernal Pool Patrol training. Educator identifies vernal pool(s) for students to monitor and secures monitoring supplies with help from MNFI and/or local partner if needed.

### APRIL/MAY

Students visit the vernal pool in the spring to collect data during the wet phase. Students compile, review, and compare data collected in the spring and/or fall. Teacher and/or students submit data forms or enter data directly into the database using the Vernal Pool Patrol app.

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Students receive classroom overview of vernal pool ecology and monitoring protocol. Students take a trip to the vernal pool in the fall to collect data on habitat conditions, plants, and animals in and around the pool during the dry phase typically.

### MID-MAY/JUNE

Optional: Students conduct additional spring monitoring visit. Students share results and reflections on what they learned from their vernal pool monitoring experience to help raise awareness and contribute to conservation of vernal pools in their local community.

**Please contact MNFI at 517-284-6200 if you would like additional information or assistance.**

[HTTPS://VERNAL-POOL-PATROL-MNFI.HUB.ARCGIS.COM](https://vernal-pool-patrol-mnfi.hub.arcgis.com)