Discovering the Canopy

1st International Course in Canopy Access for the Investigation and Conservation of Neotropical Forest

Objectives

Train biologists and other professionals from Central and South America in innovative techniques, such as the selection and proper use of equipment approved for canopy access.

Provide tree climbing equipment to participants of the course.

Promote an awareness and interest in the ecology, investigation, and conservation of Neotropical rainforest canopies

General information

Dates
9 - 15 june, 2019

Methodology
Theoretical - practical
20 quotas

Location
Rio Claro Natural Reserve
Antioquia, Colombia

*** Investment**
COP $1.200.000
USD $400

** Includes: bilingual instruction (Spanish - English), lodging, food, accidental injury insurance, equipment loaned during the course, does not cover travel to the site.*

** The total value of the course is USD $ 2,500, students will cancel 16% of the total value, the remaining value will be sponsored by the donors of the event.*

Target audience

Biologists, ecologists, foresters, and other professionals interested in learning new skills for research and conservation in the canopy of Neotropical forests.

Instructors

David Anderson - Ph.D. in Biology, Louisiana State University

Investigator in Neotropical forest ecology for more than 20 years with multiple peer-reviewed articles on this topic. He teaches tree climbing in the USA and Latin America, and publishes an educational web site on canopy access and ecology.

James Luce

Professional arborist with more than 30 years of experience in tree work and directing training programs on tree climbing, chain saw use, rigging, and other related topics in the USA and Latin America. He has worked as an assistant in canopy research in the USA, Central America, and Africa.

Tyler Zuñiga

Born and raised in Costa Rica, he is a well-known professional arborist in North America. He is a professional trainer in arboricultural techniques, specializing in Spanish language training, and works as a field assistant in scientific research in forest canopies in the USA and Central America.

Application process

1. Application: February 15 - March 15, 2019
Fill in registration form

2. Review of applications: March 15 - 25, 2019

3. Confirmation of acceptance: April 01, 2019

4. Registration / payment: 01 - 20 April

National payment

Banco ITAU
Cuenta de ahorros 026-08071-5
Fundación Alianza Natural Colombia
NIT 901.204.060-7

International payment

Payments can be made by PayPal, or through our website.

Enrollment is finalized when proof of payment is transmitted to Fundación Alianza Natural by sending a receipt to info@alianzanatural.org.

Scholarship program

Five scholarships are offered to deserving students to discount 50% of the registration fee only; scholarship grantees must still pay travel costs to the training site. To apply, prospective participants must complete the Application Form no later than March 15, 2019. Award recipients will receive notice by April 01.

Equipment donation

Eleven complete climbing kits (helmet, harness, rope, ascent system, etc.) with an approximate value of USD$2,500 will be available for use by all participants during the course. After completion of the course, 5 complete climbing kits will be donated to the highest performing students. Awards will be based on student applications, daily practical exams, and evaluations by course instructors.

Conceptual content

	Arrival of inational and nternational participants in Bogota
Day 1	• Arrival and installation of students at Río Claro Nature Reserve. • Introductions and welcoming. • First practical exam – based on study materials delivered prior to the course.
	MODULE 1
Day 2	• Course introduction – course flow and methodology • Learning the basics – equipment selection and maintenance. • Establish identities, team building, role definition, establish authority, safety rules. • Safe practices in tree climbing. • Knots for tree climbing • Protocol for pre-climb tree inspection and identification of hazards.
	MODULE 2
Day 3	• Rope installation. • Managing throw cubes, lines and bags. Correct and incorrect use of the BigShot. • First tree climb for all students. • Installation and removal of the climbing system. • Climbing knots – practice and new knows introduced.
	MODULE 3
Day 4	• Maximum climbing exposure: Students spend the maximum time possible on rope to advance their climbing knowledge and practice. • Climbing knots – practice and new knows introduced.
	MODULE 4
Day 5	• Canopy lanyards and moving rope systems: introduction of new methods for canopy access, work positioning, and safety. • Intermediate and advanced methods: presentation and practice of methods for total canopy access. • Climbing knots – practice and new knows introduced.
	MODULE 5
Day 6	• **Written Exam:** Participants will take written test to evaluate their understanding of the principles of safe and efficient canopy access methods presented in the course. • **Obstacle Course**: Participants will complete a series of "missions" in trees, demonstrating their abilities at canopy access and problem solving that reinforce old methods while seeking solutions to novel problems. • Afternoon free time: students are free to experience Rio Claro Nature Reserve. • Closing ceremony: diplomas and climbing kits will be awarded.
	Return to Bogotá and international destinations.

Recommendations

•Use light clothes that dry quickly and are suitable for hot and humid weather (T ° 24 - 28C and humidity greater than 80%)
•Bring Hiking boots for the canopy ascent days.
•Bring repellent and sunscreen.
•Have the appropriate vaccines (Consult the consulate of your country *https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/embajadas-consulados-colombia-exterior*
•Having a personal container for hydration, during the training there will be potable water tanks to recharge personal containers.
•Have the necessary medication for the days of the course in case of having daily medication.
•Comply with the regulations of the place of the course *http://www.rioclaroreservanatural.com/en/reglamento/*
•Having good physical condition, the canopy climbing days demand an adequate physical condition which will facilitate the performance of the students during the tests in the canopy.

Event Organizers

Alianza Natural
Unidos por la naturaleza

UNIVERSIDAD EL BOSQUE

NATURE COLOMBIA
www.naturecolombia.com

CANOPY WATCH

THE PEREGRINE FUND

Event Sponsors

The Rufford Foundation
www.rufford.org

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