

Session I. Achieving Our Purpose
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center (CDRI)
Saturday, August 17, 2024; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please read Chapter II. Achieving our Purpose prior to this session.

- 8:00 Review of day's activities (Warren Shaul)
- 8:10 Welcome and CDRI overview; volunteer opportunities (Lisa Gordon, Executive Director, CDRI)
- 8:30 The importance of insects to ecosystem function (Dr. Christopher Ritzi, Professor of Biology, Sul Ross State University)
- 9:15 break
- 9:30 insect field search - CDRI gardens (Dr. Ritzi)
- 11:30 Lunch (we may combine with Clayton's Overlook hike)
- 12:30 Hike (Clayton's Overlook (1.5 mile loop) (Geology)
- 1:45 break
- 2:00 Climate Change in Big Bend (Dr. Cathryn Hoyt, Ranger, Big Bend National Park)
- 3:15 Achieving our purpose overview (Warren Shaul)
- 4:00 wrap up (VMS: VS and AT opportunities at CDRI)

***Please bring your lunch and water**

**** Dress appropriately (Appendix 1 in Training Manual)**



Volunteer Opportunities for CDRI in the Volunteer Management System (VMS)

Advanced Training (AT) (All advanced training opportunities begin with the letters AT)

AT: CDRI Seminars/Workshops

Advanced Training you attend as a participant that provides understanding and knowledge potentially valuable in achieving the TMN mission and chapter vision. There are many AT opportunities at CDRI, including training for native garden tours, trail guides, and more.

Volunteer Service (VS)

CDRI Maintenance Projects

Field-based activities that improve and manage the public's access to natural areas or resources that include creating or maintaining nature trails, wildscapes or interpretive areas; developing new or maintaining or improving existing hiking trails, native species gardens, wildlife viewing blinds, wildscapes/native plant gardens, and other cleanup activities.

CDRI Training and Educating Others

Formal public training and education that may include leading, organizing, developing, delivering, instructing, or staffing an educational activity related to the TMN mission where participants have a planned learning objective and generally stay for the full event (e.g., planned start and end times with a single agenda).

CDRI Visitor Center (Public Outreach)

Indirect education that may involve leading, organizing, or staffing an educational activity where participants come and go and are able to inquire on a broad set of topics. Examples include being a docent for a nature center; writing an educational article, newsletter or brochure.