



## ***Make your next hike count!***

### **Observe plants & animals on the Appalachian Trail with us!**

Join us and become an **A.T. Seasons Trained Observer!** Here are the steps to setting up your **A.T. Seasons Nature's Notebook** observation program for selected plants and/or animals at a site near you!

#### **1. JOIN A.T. Seasons**

- Learn what is happening in your region and request or attend a scheduled **required training**: <https://www.usanpn.org/appalachian/involved>
- Create an account with a username and password.
- When you register be sure to **"Join a group"** under A.T. Seasons that will be your partner contact associated with the site(s) you are monitoring. Partners currently include: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

#### **2. SET UP YOUR SITES**

- A site is the area within which you monitor the A.T. priority plant and animal species. As a volunteer for **A.T. Seasons** you will be monitoring an existing site(s) or working with a partner group to set one up.
- Your partner contact will add your site(s) to the network and you should be able to select it from your Nature's Notebook observation deck when logged in at: <https://mynpn.usanpn.org/npnapps/>
- Learn more about your species and their phenophases by reviewing materials found on your observation deck for each plant or animal at your site(s).

#### **3. START OBSERVING!**

- You will need:
  - ✓ Phenophase definition sheets and instructions for your species which can be downloaded from the web site
  - ✓ Your site(s) datasheets, clipboard, and pencil
  - ✓ Binoculars (optional but recommended for tree observations)
- Record your observations of plants and animals
  - ✓ **YES (Y)** – if you saw that the phenophase (e.g. open flower or mating) is occurring
  - ✓ **NO (N)** – if you saw that the phenophase is not occurring
  - ✓ **UNCERTAIN (?)** – if you were not sure if the phenophase was occurring or if you did not check for it
- Submit your observations online.

