

DO YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS... PARTICIPATE IN PLACE-BASED LEARNING? ENJOY BEING OUTDOORS? CARE ABOUT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES? WANT TO SEE COOL THINGS?



IF YES, THEN THIS PROJECT IS FOR YOU!!

## Vernal Pool Patrol

Statewide Citizen Science-Based  
Vernal Pool Mapping and Monitoring  
Program for K-12

GLFT Northern Michigan Pilot Project  
2015-2017



**WHY:** Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that typically are wet in the spring and dry up by late summer or early fall. These wetlands are hotspots of biodiversity, and provide a unique home and ideal breeding habitat for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, especially amphibians and invertebrates, throughout their wet and dry periods. They also are important for nutrient cycling, water storage, and groundwater recharge. But limited information is currently available on the distribution, abundance, and ecology of vernal pools in Michigan.

**WHAT:** To help address this information need, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) has enlisted the help of citizen scientists and partners to help map, monitor, and collect information about vernal pools across the state. The Vernal Pool Patrol program is a K-12 companion program primarily for middle and high school students. Students visit a vernal pool site throughout the year, and collect data on the vernal pool and associated plants and animals. These data will contribute to a statewide vernal pool database that will help the public, land managers, and scientists better understand and protect Michigan's vernal pools. Plus, it's fun!!



**HOW TO GET INVOLVED:** Contact MNFI or the GLSI regional hub to sign up for the Vernal Pool Patrol project! You will be contacted about attending a training workshop for teachers and partners this spring. Start monitoring this spring or fall!



For more information or to sign up for the project, please contact:  
Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI)  
Yu Man Lee - [leeyum@msu.edu](mailto:leeyum@msu.edu); Daria Hyde - [hyded@msu.edu](mailto:hyded@msu.edu);  
Or visit: <http://www.nemiglsi.org/projects.asp?ogt=pv&pid=92>

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