

# iNaturalist Project and Leaderboards

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## Overview

This guide teaches coordinators how to host a friendly wildlife-finding competition using the free iNaturalist app. Participants take photos of wild plants and animals, and your project automatically collects them into a live leaderboard.

## Coordinator Setup Guide

### Step 1: Log In on a Computer

Go to [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) → Community → Projects → Start a Project.

### Step 2: Name Your Project & Add Templates

Add a clear title and project summary. Make sure to set it as a Collection project.

### Step 3: Set Your Boundaries

Places: Type your town, park name or an area to explore to see if it is an identified location in iNaturalist. If it is not, follow the [simple steps to add your location as a custom boundary](#).

Taxa: Leave blank.

Date Observed: Choose Range.

### Step 4: Launch & Share

Click Create Project.

Share the project URL.

## Test your challenge

### Leaderboard Test Checklist

1. Temporarily open your project date range.
2. Upload a wildlife photo inside the boundary.
3. Refresh the leaderboard
4. Delete the test and reset dates.

## Text for marketing.

## Template for General Public, school, club or family teams

Welcome to our Montana Nature Challenge! This friendly competition helps map the local wildlife. Help us discover and count the amazing wild plants and animals in our area.

Anyone can play!

(use this spot to include any special things your library will do for those who top the leaderboard)

How to join:

- Look for wild living things outdoors.
- Take a clear photo using the iNaturalist app.
- Upload your photo. If it matches our location and dates, it automatically counts toward the leaderboard.
- Check the scoreboard to see who can find the most species or upload the most photos.

Quick Rules:

- Be safe: Explore with a buddy or an adult.
- Be respectful: Do not disturb wildlife or pick wild plants.
- Wild only: No pets, houseplants, or garden flowers.
- Photograph wild living things within our boundary area.
- Make photos clear to help community members identify them.
- Upload multiple angles to help observations reach Research Grade.

Have Fun!