Biol. 550 Professional Workshop  
(1–3, repeatable to 12)

Offered during Spring 2015 for 3 semester hours of graduate credit; serves as an elective for the master’s degree in biology and in the PBC in Zoo & Aquarium Studies.

The goal of this course is to give graduate students credit for attendance and/or participation in professional seminars, conferences, societies, lectures, of volunteer activities. Proof of attendance is a copy of the program, agenda, event announcement, or name of contact who can verify participation. The total number of participation hours is 40 per semester hour of credit or 120 hours for a 3-semester course.

Students will be provided a list of possible activities, but are encouraged to suggest other activities. Students are responsible for travel, housing, food, registration and fees to attend an activity.

Students can “grandfather in” credit for any approved activity while in the biology graduate program at WIU. Once 120 hours are reached, the student should submit a small portfolio of agendas etc. that demonstrate participation. The portfolio should be sent to the Biology Chairman in a plain folder or emailed with a list of events attended and hours of participation.

### Potential Activities for Spring 2015

- 2015 annual meeting of the Illinois Academy of Science will be held on April 10 and 11 at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois.  [http://ilacadofsci.com/](http://ilacadofsci.com/)
- Two-day Animal Well-being Conference held at Brookfield Zoo.
- The Bird Expo held each spring in the Chicago area.
- Sustainability Symposium at Western Illinois University – QC.
- Two day Earthweek Expo at the QC Expo Center.
- Zoo Monitor Program at the Lincoln Park Zoo.  
- Midwest meeting for the American Society of Animal Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa.  
  [https://www.asas.org/membership-services/asas-sections/midwest-section](https://www.asas.org/membership-services/asas-sections/midwest-section)
- National Geographic Mississippi River Geotourism project meeting at Stoney Creek Hotel in Moline on March 9th and 10th.  
- Research Symposium at Western Illinois University – QC.
- Undergraduate Research Day at Western Illinois University – Macomb.
- Bald Eagle Days at the Quad City Expo Center.  
  [http://www.qccaexpocenter.com/bald-eagle-event.html](http://www.qccaexpocenter.com/bald-eagle-event.html)
- Variety of local Earth Day activities.
- Society for Ecological Restoration Midwest Great Lakes Annual Meeting:  
- International Kennel Club Show:  
- Wild Things conference:  
- Animal Behavior Conference:  
  [https://iaabc.org/conference](https://iaabc.org/conference)
- International Urban Wildlife Conference:  
  [http://www.urban-wildlife.org/](http://www.urban-wildlife.org/)
The Mississippi River Corridor Geotourism Program

10 States, 12 Million People, 1 River

The Mississippi River and its tributaries constitute the largest river system in North America, with a meandering route from its northern headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico, the river has served as the backbone of the United States’ historical and economic development for over two centuries, and represents a veritable cross-section of the ecological, geographic, and cultural diversity of the country. While ways of life, scenery, and ecosystems may vary greatly over its course, individuals and organizations nationwide with ties to the Mississippi agree that they are all connected to its water and that they need to work together to protect its natural and cultural assets and promote its economic vitality. Geotourism is a way of supporting this effort.

The Mississippi River Corridor Geotourism Program seeks to capture and promote the culture, heritage and ecological diversity of the people and places that are connected to the Mississippi River through the voices and stories of the people that live along its shores. The Geotourism program will help the people that live along the Mississippi River, in their own words, express what’s unique about their place through a National Geographic Society co-branded online interactive website of the region.

Visit National Geographic’s Geotourism Map Guides online at:

www.usgulfcoaststatesgeotourism.com
www.nlgeotourism.com
www.sierranegeotourism.org
www.visitredwoodcoast.com
www.yellowstonegeotourism.org
www.crownofthecontinent.net
www.lakestolockspassage.com
www.tennesseecountygeotourism.org
www.fourcornersgeotourism.com