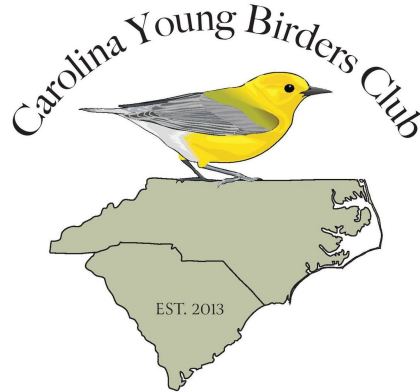


## CYBC Field Trip Volunteer Information



Thank you for your interest in the Carolina Young Birders Club!

### The CYBC

The Carolina Young Birders Club is an all-volunteer organization that covers both Carolinas. The mission of the club is to connect, teach, and inspire young birders across both Carolinas. Many of the young birders in the club are unable to lead trips or drive, so we are depending on adult volunteers to plan events with the club. Young birders under the age of 18 need to have their parent or guardian fill out the CYBC Waiver Form before they can participate in field trips. This is a one-time form and once the young birder turns 18, they do not require it.

### Planning a Field Trip/Event

Anyone is able to plan a field trip or event with us! It is up to the trip leaders to plan the trip and communicate with parents and young birders. These trips should be located within either North or South Carolina, but trips venturing into other states (Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee) are welcome, as long as you are aware that many of our members may not be able to attend due to distance.



Field trips can be just general birding trips, or they can be more specialized events such as banding demonstrations and museum tours. Some trips may follow a spectacle such as Purple Martin migration or hawk watches. Workshops, seminars, and talks are encouraged as well. This all depends on you, the trip leader, and what you want to do! For now, these trips should be half or full day trips. We will hopefully plan overnight trips at a later date.

When planning a trip, please keep in mind that most of our young birders are still in school. Typically, you should try to plan for a Saturday or Sunday. During the summer you can be more flexible as many kids are on summer break. You may find that trips planned on weekdays outside of the summer have very few to no young birders able to go.

Also when planning the start time for the trip, keep in mind that many parents may not appreciate a 6:30 am start! Depending on the time of year, a 7:30 or later start should be fine.

To plan a trip, please contact the CYBC ([carolinayoungbirders@gmail.com](mailto:carolinayoungbirders@gmail.com)) with a date, time, location, and your contact information. We will add this to the website and put it on our email list. From there, interested young birders and parents will contact you and you will be able to communicate with them as needed.



### **Transportation**

Carpooling is heavily encouraged for club trips. It is up to the parent or guardian of the young birder to ensure their child has transportation on club trips, not the trip leader. As a trip leader, we encourage you to offer transportation but it is not required or necessary. We encourage trip participants to chip in some gas money to the driver if carpooling.

### **Cancellations, Changes, and Attendance**

Due to the nature of the CYBC, many of our members are spread thin throughout both Carolinas. This means that attendance to club trips may be low, or you may not get any young birders out at all. This problem should hopefully diminish as the club grows, but in the meantime, please be prepared for this scenario. You may end up birding alone!

As the trip leader, you are able to cancel your trip at any time for any reason as well as change trip information. If you must do this, please contact the CYBC immediately or email the CYBC email list as soon as possible so that participants can make changes to their plans.

### After a Trip

During trips, we encourage photography of birds, wildlife, and our birders (with parent's permission of course)! We would be happy to use these photos for our social media and website, with all credit given to the photographer.

A trip report would be greatly appreciated, or better yet, a post on our blog. The CYBC blog is free for anyone to post, and having one central location for all of our trip reports is very useful. You do need an account on our website to post. An email for the trip report works just as well. You can also ask and see if any of the young birder participants would be interested in writing a report!

Additionally, be sure to share any eBird checklists with members of the party. The CYBC heavily encourages eBirding. There is a club eBird account that you should share all trip lists to. The username for this is **CYBCeBird**.

### The Most Important Part- YOU!

Finally, the most important part of the field trip is you! We encourage trip leaders to be good birding role models for the young birders. You do not need to be an expert birder, just a passionate one! Make efforts to get everyone on birds. Share equipment such as binoculars, spotting scopes, and field guides. Pointing out non-avian wildlife on trips is encouraged. Even if you see very few birds, teaching and passing down information and skills to young birders makes a field trip worth it. That is the whole point of the field trips- to ignite and fuel that passion in young people!

Additionally, if you encounter a young birder, please encourage them to sign up on our website and email list. The club is always looking for new members!

Thank you again for your interest, and we hope to see you in the field!

