2027 Application - Texas Master Naturalist Program

Alamo Area Chapter, San Antonio, TX

The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist Program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas.
We seek to train individuals who desire to become Certified Texas Master Naturalists and who intend to maintain their certifications through continued education and long-term volunteer relationships.
Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) is a program sponsored by two Texas-state agencies, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. When you apply to become a Texas Master Naturalist you are also applying to become volunteers for the two state agencies. TPWD manages the volunteer management system for TMN.
Our application is open to all individuals and does not discriminate on the basis of socioeconomic level, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age (18 or older), or disability.

We plan to admit 70 individuals to this class. We often receive more applications than we have space. We strive to admit those whose applications indicate a willingness to commit to the fast paced, 3 1/2 month training and provide volunteer service to the community, both during and following the training program.
Successful trainees complete all of the requirements to become a Texas Master Naturalist, which include attending at least 42 hours of curriculum-driven lectures, completing 2-3 hours of weekly self-study and participating in 12 hours of field-based training.
During the 3-1/2 month initial training program or within 12 months from the beginning of the program, trainees are required to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service, and 8 hours of advanced training of your choice.
Your application information should clearly explain why you want to become a Texas Master Naturalist and what skills and experience you have to offer. If you have current or previous volunteer experience, please include details. A field has been provided at the end of the application where you can add any additional relevant information that you want considered in your application.
We look forward to reviewing your application.

Informational videos:
The four informational videos linked below provide information about our mission, training schedule, certification requirements, and time commitment for the Program. Please watch these videos before you complete the application so that you are well informed about the program structure and commitments.
You can speed them up, pause them, or replay them anytime. Please make time to watch all four before you complete and submit your application.

Video 1: Mission - 5:19
Video 2: Schedule - 10:19
Video 3: Certification Requirements - 8:16
Video 4: Time Commitment - 11:51

Did you watch the informational videos? *

- Yes
- No

Application

First name *

Last name *

Your Preferred Pronoun? Select one *

He, him, his
She, her, hers
They, them, their
Other

Date of Birth *

Month Day Year

E-mail *

We prefer that you provide a personal rather than work email mail address. Make certain there are no typos. The email address you list here will generate your application confirmation notice.

Home address *

Street Address

Unit, Apartment or Suite Detail

City State

Zip Code

Preferred Phone Number *

Phone Number

Area Code

Indicate if this is a mobile number *

- Yes
- No

Alternate Phone Number *

Area Code Phone Number

Emergency Contact Name *

First Name Last Name

Emergency Contact Phone *

Area Code Phone Number

If you are admitted to the program, you will receive an embossed Member-in-Training name badge and a chapter t-shirt at orientation.

1) Your name as you would like it to appear on your member name badge *

First Name Last Name

2) Your estimated t-shirt size. Sizes available are S, M, L, XL, 2XL and 3XL. Shirts are Port and Company PC61 Essential T-shirts, 100% cotton. *

T-shirt size

The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our communities for the State of Texas.

What specific interests do you have that relate to our mission? *

What types of volunteer activities are you interested in pursuing? *

What are your preferred times for volunteering? (Check all that apply) *

- Weekdays, Daytime
- Weekdays, Evenings
- Weekends, Daytime
- Weekends, Evenings
- Other

List previous and current volunteer service, especially those related to nature and natural resources. If you volunteer for an organization that is associated with the Alamo Area Chapter (or at a state park or natural area managed by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), provide details. *

What skills, knowledge and abilities do you possess that will make you a successful Texas Master Naturalist? Examples: Photography, writing, community outreach, research, teaching, interpretation, trail management, game management, ecological restoration. etc. *

How will you use your training to benefit our community and promote the goals of the Texas Master Naturalist Program as detailed in the Mission Statement? *

Class 53 schedule
Please review schedule by clicking on the link above.
You will be required to attend at least 9 (of 11 scheduled) 4-hour Thursday evening classes and three 4-hour field trips over a fourteen week period. Field trips are scheduled for various days of the week and weekends. You will be able to select the three field trips you will attend based on your schedule and interests. Your registration for field trips will be confirmed in advance, allowing you adequate time to (re)schedule other commitments.
Weekly classes begin at 5:00 pm. Most are held via Zoom, but Classes 1, 6, and 11 are held in-person at The Urban Ecology Center located at Phil Hardberger Park-West.
Please carefully consider your current schedule requirements when deciding if you have the required time to devote to this program. This training program will require several hours of pre-reading and four hours of class each week, at a minimum - plus additional hours for volunteer service. Do not underestimate the time requirements for this program!
If you have any concerns that you may not be able to join class on time weekly or participate in the required program activities, please discuss concerns with us prior to submitting your application. Contact us via: https://txmn.org/alamo/questions/ or email Karen Wilson at training@alamomasternaturalist.org.

Important Program Information

Read each section and click button to indicate your acceptance/agreement

Class Schedule *

I have reviewed the class schedule linked above and I do not have schedule conflicts that will prevent me from participating in weekly classes or field activities.

Volunteer Onboarding Workflow and Background Check
All Texas Master Naturalist volunteers are required to complete a criminal background check, a series of four waivers and seven onboarding videos (onboarding workflow) via TPWD's Volunteer Management System (VMS). All steps in this workflow **must be completed before class instruction and volunteer service begin.** This will take approximately one to two hours to complete. **We will require that volunteers complete the workflow timely so that all TPWD actions are completed before class instruction begins.** You will be required to provide your driver's license (or state issued identification card) information in VMS. The workflow and background check are processed by TPWD at no cost to you.

Volunteer Onboarding Workflow and Background Check *

I understand and accept the volunteer onboarding and background check requirements.

Attendance
It is our expectation that you will attend all classes and at least three field sessions. All are important to your training. Attendance at class 1 on February 4 is mandatory.
We understand that work and family commitments or illness may require that you miss a class. If **your**

known schedule will require that you will be absent from class 1 on February 4 or if you anticipate missing MORE THAN TWO CLASSES IN TOTAL, then we ask that you delay application until a later time, when your schedule will better align.

Attendance *

I understand and accept the attendance requirements.

Computer Access and Hours Reporting
You MUST have regular access to a computer or tablet and be willing to record your training and service hours in the TPWD Volunteer Management System (VMS). A smartphone will NOT suffice for reporting hours in VMS as not all necessary features are accessible via smartphones.
Your VMS record is your official record of training and service and is used to document volunteer activity. **Collectively, VMS records of all TMN's are used for the purpose of establishing grant funding, which is very important to our program.** Therefore, reporting of class hours in VMS (as well as the class attendance requirement) is MANDATORY for completion of the training program. If you do not record your class hours in VMS, you will not officially complete training and therefore will not be eligible for certification.
Hours reporting is not difficult or time consuming. We provide training and aids that make it simple. We also have a dedicated VMS coach in class to assist you with any questions or concerns. We require that you report your class and service hours on a weekly basis during the initial training program, so that you can develop the habit and skill of VMS reporting.

Computer Access and Hours Reporting *

I understand and accept the requirements for hours reporting.

Release for Use of Audio, Video, Digital, Film, and Photographs
I hereby consent to and authorize Texas Master Naturalist, Alamo Area Chapter to utilize any images/photos/videos I donate, and any photograph of my image and/or voice recording taken of me, for use by the Texas Master Naturalist Program or its assignees in research, education and promotional programs.
I understand and agree that these audio, video, digital, film and/or print images may be edited, duplicated, distributed with or without charge, reproduced, broadcast and/or reformatted in any form and manner without the payment of fees, in perpetuity. I also confirm that I waive all rights/claims arising from such use for any additional compensation, damages and invasion of privacy.
A photograph will be taken of each new Member-in-Training during the first class. This photo will be used for a class directory that will contain your name, email address and phone number to be shared with the Training Team and your fellow trainees. This helps connect faces with developing relationships with the Training Team and fellow trainees. The directory is for chapter use only and will not be published publicly.

Release for Use of Audio, Video, Digital, Film, and Photographs *

I understand and agree

Volunteer Service and Advanced Training Requirements
As a Texas Master Naturalist, you will be expected to complete a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service and 8 hours of approved advanced training each year.
It is our expectation that you will complete your first 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training by February 28, 2028 (12 full months from the start of your training), but you may complete them sooner if your schedule permits. Some participants complete the initial certification volunteer and advanced training requirements during the training program.

Volunteer Service and Advanced Training Requirements *

I understand and accept

Select from the following to describe your availability for volunteer activities. *

My schedule will allow me to volunteer regularly. I will easily volunteer more than 40 hours per year.
My schedule is pretty busy, but I will manage to volunteer 40 hours per year.
Due to my schedule, volunteering 40 hours per year will be challenging.

How did you hear about the Texas Master Naturalist Program? *

Do you know any Alamo Area Chapter members? If so, list a name or names. *

If working, what is your profession? if a student, what is your field of study?

Place of employment, school, or university.

Are you a teacher who needs Certified Public Educator (CPE) credits? If you select "Yes", we will provide you with information about how you can earn CPE credits during our training program. *

Yes
No

Is there any additional information you would like to provide in support of your application?

Complete the following two questions below ONLY if you wish to be considered for reduced tuition based on financial need. We may contact you for additional information, if needed.
We offer a limited number of partial tuition discounts per class. No other discounts or scholarships are available.

1) Is receiving financial assistance necessary in order for you to attend this class?

- Yes
- No

2) What are the factors contributing to your financial need?

Immediately after submitting your application, you will receive an email confirmation from noreply@jotform.com that will have a display name of Alamo Area Master Naturalist.
Please read the information contained in that email and retain it for information. If you do not receive it, check your junk mail folder. If not found, email training@alamomasternaturalist.org to request a copy.

IMPORTANT: Please add training@alamomasternaturalist.org to your contact list or trusted email names list so that you will be certain to see emails we send about the status of your application.
Email notices regarding program acceptance will be sent between December 8 and December 15 and require you to accept or decline admission, as we often have a waiting list.
If you accept admission, you must pay tuition by Tuesday, December 22. Tuition includes all training materials and 2027 chapter dues.

Click below to submit your application.