



Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer Training Big Country Chapter 2024 Training

Application

Application Deadline: August 9, 2024

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer. Class size is limited to 20 members. **This is a volunteer program/organization.** Acceptance is based on your willingness and availability to volunteer within our Big Country Master Naturalist Chapter approved projects. Please note that a background check is required on all applicants participating in the Master Naturalist program.

The volunteer training program will run from August 15th to November 7th. The cost of the training is \$150. The cost covers a training manual that you will get to keep and all of the speaker and administrative fees. The majority of the classes are held on Thursday evenings from 6 pm to 9 pm and are either at the Taylor County Extension office in Abilene or at the Abilene State Park in Buffalo Gap. There will be three Saturday field sessions. Please see the final page of this application for the tentative schedule with dates and times.

Legal Name (Print) _____ Preferred Name: _____
If different

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone (Home/Work) _____ (Cell) _____

E-Mail (required): _____

Natural science and ecology experience and any related training: _____

List areas of specialization or hobbies (e.g. wildflowers, gardening for wildlife, bird watching, nature photography, archeology, fossil hunting, reptiles, insects, fishing, hunting, etc.):

List experience in working with each type of community: (schools, churches, senior citizens, hospitals, parks, scout groups, etc.): _____

Please list group affiliations (nature clubs, community gardens, plant societies, Audubon, etc.):

How did you find out about this year’s Master Naturalist Training Program? (Facebook Post / Friend / Newspaper / Etc) _____

Why do you want to become a Texas Master Naturalist? _____

I wish to apply to the Big Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. By signing below, I confirm that if I am accepted into the program, I understand that:

- I must be at least 18 years of age to take the training
- I must pay \$150 training fee for materials and speakers before the start of the first class
- I must attend at least 11 of the 13 training sessions (Note: Makeup work is required for missed classes.)
- I must serve at least 40 hours of volunteer service and complete 8 hours of advanced training within a 12-month time period from the end of the training program. (Note: Each monthly chapter meeting includes about an hour of advanced training on various topics of interest as well as announcements of upcoming events available for volunteer hours.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return completed application to:

Taylor County Extension
1982 Lytle Way
Abilene, TX 79602

or e-mail to: Dawnyel.Luckie@ag.tamu.edu

Note: Applications due by August 9th, 2024, by end of day. For additional questions, please call 325-672-6048

Note: All applications received by August 1st before 5pm will be reviewed August 2nd, 2024. Each applicant will be notified if they’ve been accepted into the training program by the end of day on August 2nd via e-mail. **Please be sure to check your e-mail by Sunday, August 4th.**





Tentative Schedule
Big Country Chapter
2024 Fall Master Naturalist Training
Dates and Topics subject to change

Session	Day/Date	Topic	Location
1	Thurs, Aug. 15 6 PM - 9 PM	Orientation, Introductions	Taylor Co. Ext
2	Thurs, Aug. 22 6 PM - 9 PM	Urban Ecology Texas Water Resources / Soils	Taylor Co. Ext
3	Thurs, Aug. 29 6 PM - 9 PM	VMS Training Historical Naturalists of Texas	Taylor Co. Ext
4	Thurs, Sept. 5 6 PM - 9 PM	Entomology Weather/Archaeology	Taylor Co. Ext
5	Thurs, Sept. 12 6 PM - 9 PM	Ecological Concepts & Soils / Ecosystems Concepts and Mgmt. Interpretation/Volunteers as Teachers	Taylor Co. Ext
6	Thurs, Sept. 19 6 PM - 9 PM	Ornithology Nature Photography	Abilene State Park
7	Sat, Sept. 28 8 AM – 5 PM	Texas Quail Program Rangeland Ecology and Mgmt. Native Plant ID	Rolling Plains QRR, Roby, Texas
8	Sat, Oct 5 5 PM – 9 PM	Astronomy/Star Party	Abilene State Park CCC Building
9	Thurs, Oct. 10 6 PM - 9 PM	Aquatic Systems Ecology and Mgmt. Wetland Ecology and Mgmt. Ichthyology	Taylor Co. Ext
10	Thurs, Oct 17	Plant ID Walk	Abilene State Park
11	Sat, Oct. 19 9 AM - 2 PM	Geology / Soils	Coleman (TBA)
12	Thurs, Oct. 24 6 PM - 9 PM	Herpetology	Taylor Co. Ext
13	Wed, Oct. 30 6 PM - 9 PM	Mammalogy (This might be moved To Tuesday)	Taylor Co. Ext
	Thurs, Nov. 7 6 PM - 9 PM	Lab Practical Graduation	Taylor Co. Ext