



Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer Training Big Country Chapter 2025 Training

Application Deadline: August 7, 2025

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

The Big Country Chapter serves Taylor, Callahan, Coleman, Eastland, Fisher, Jones, Haskell, Knox, Nolan, Runnels, Shackelford, Stephens, Throckmorton, Concho, Brown and Tom Green County. Residents in Tom Green County will have the option of attending five of the trainings virtually from a San Angelo location, to be announced at a later time.

The volunteer training program will run from August 14th to November 6th. The cost of the training is \$150 which covers all speaker and administrative fees. Also included is a Texas Master Naturalist Statewide Curriculum that is yours to keep! Most 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 are also 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 (Cell) _____ (Home/Work) _____

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 Texas Master Naturalist, 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 13 of the 15 sessions (Makeup work is required for missed classes.)
- I must serve at least 40 hours of approved volunteer service and complete 8 hours of approved advanced training within a 12-month time period from the end of the training program. (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:

Big Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist
c/o Taylor County Extension Office
1982 Lytle Way
Abilene, TX 79602
or e-mail to: Dawnyel.Luckie@ag.tamu.edu

When are applications due? Applications must be received before 5pm August 7, 2025.

How do I return my application? You may mail, e-mail or bring in your application. You may also come into our office to pick up an application to fill out.

How will I know if I'm accepted into the program? Our training committee will review all applications on August 1st. Each applicant will be notified via e-mail by the end of the day on Monday, August 4th, to let them know if they've been accepted into the training program.

For additional questions or directions to our office, please call 325-672-6048.



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

2025

Session	Day/Date	Topic	Location
1	Thurs, Aug. 14 6 PM - 9 PM	Orientation, Introductions Land Stewardship	Taylor Co. Ext
2 **	Thurs, Aug. 21 6 PM - 9 PM	Wetland Ecology and Mgmt. Texas Water Resources / Soils	Taylor Co. Ext
3	Thurs, Aug. 28 6 PM - 9 PM	VMS Training Historical Naturalists of Texas	Taylor Co. Ext
4	Thurs, Sept. 4 6 PM - 9 PM	Ecological Concepts & Soils / Ecosystems Concepts and Mgmt.	Taylor Co. Ext
5	Thurs, Sept. 11 5 PM - 8 PM	Early Start Time! Plant ID Nature in Naming	Kirby Lake Pavilion
6 **	Thurs, Sept. 18 6 PM - 9 PM	Volunteers as Teachers Citizen Science/ Interpretation	Taylor Co. Ext
7	Thurs, Sept. 25 6 PM - 9 PM	Herpetology	Taylor Co. Ext
8	Sat., Sept. 27 8 AM - 4 PM	Archaeology Geology	Paint Rock, Texas
9	Thurs, Oct 2 6 PM - 9 PM	Mammalogy	Taylor Co. Ext
10	Sat., Oct. 4 8 AM - 4 PM	Texas Quail Program Rangeland Ecology and Mgmt. Native Plant ID	Rolling Plains QRR Roby, Texas
11	Thurs, Oct. 9 6 PM - 9 PM	Aquatic Systems Ecology and Mgmt. Ichthyology	Taylor Co. Ext
12 **	Thurs, Oct 16 6 PM - 9 PM	Entomology	Taylor Co. Ext
13	Sat, Oct. 18 5 PM - 9 PM	Astronomy followed by Star Party	Abilene State Park CCC Building
14	Thurs, Oct. 23 6 PM - 9 PM	Ornithology Forest Ecology	Abilene State Park Group Shelter Hall
15	Thurs, Oct. 30 6 PM - 9 PM	Weather Urban Ecology	Taylor Co. Ext
16	Thurs, Nov. 6 6 PM - 9 PM	Lab Practical Graduation	Modern Living Mall Taylor Co. Ext

** Chapter meeting for current members ahead of training