

T E X A S



Texas Master Naturalists
Coastal Prairie Chapter, Inc.
1402 Band Road, Suite 100
Rosenberg, Texas 77471
281-633-7042
Fax – 281-633-7070

2012 Volunteer Application
Texas Master Naturalist™ Program
Coastal Prairie Chapter

Enrollment in the Fall 2012 class is limited to 25 people and you are encouraged to complete the entire application packet as soon as possible. All participants will be strongly encouraged to fulfill leadership roles as the Chapter develops.

The cost of the Master Naturalist Fall 2012 training is \$150.00. A check made payable to CPTMN or Coastal Prairie Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist must accompany the completed application. Applications are not considered complete until the entire application packet forms and the fee are received by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. All Volunteers associated with Texas AgriLife Extension Service are required to complete and pass the Youth Protection Background Checks (attached) prior to enrollment.

Class begins on Saturday, September 8, 2012.

Name: _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____

Telephone: Day: _____ Night: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

How did you hear about the Master Naturalist Program? _____

Occupation, if employed: _____

If retired, what was your former occupation?

1. Describe why you are interested in the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program.
2. Please indicate any organizations of which you are a member, or have volunteered time during the last two years. Indicate the average number of hours you have volunteered for each organization on a monthly basis.
3. Please note skills or interests that would be helpful to the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program (such as computer, photography, typing, graphic arts, public speaking, teaching, specific knowledge, etc.). Please list any relevant training or education you have completed related to natural resources.

All class participants must be available for the 8 weeks of classes. Participants will be required to complete the 48 hours of education, 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training within 12 months of the first class date in order to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist. Volunteer service hours must be completed through projects previously approved as listed in Coastal Prairie Chapter's Volunteer Service Project list. In order to maintain certification, volunteers must continue to complete 40 hours of volunteer service and complete 8 hours of advanced training each calendar year thereafter.

Please initial the following statements and sign and date where indicated:

Volunteer Standards:

___ I understand that in exchange for the training made possible through the Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program, I will volunteer at least 40 hours of my time toward approved projects and complete 8 hours of advanced training within a year of the last class date of October 25, 2012. I understand that the Volunteer service hours must be completed through projects previously approved as listed in Coastal Prairie Chapter's Volunteer Service Project list. I understand that I will not become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist until I complete both the training and the volunteer service. I also understand that to maintain an active status, I must complete 8 hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service each calendar year thereafter.

Liability Release:

___ I understand that as a participant in the Texas Master Naturalist™ volunteer program ("program") I hereby release, **discharge, and agree to hold harmless** the program and its sponsoring state agencies, their agents, employees, officers and successors from and against the program and sponsoring state agencies, their successors, employees, or officers for all personal injuries (including death), known and unknown or damage to property caused by or arising out of activities performed under the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program.

Youth Protection Standards Background Check:

____ I agree to submit to a background check, as a condition of membership in the Coastal Prairie Chapter, the cost of which is included in the fee for the Fall 2012 class. (This form is attached and titled Volunteer Application Form)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed application and check (made payable to CPCTMN) for training fees to:

Margo "Mac" McDowell
Program Coordinator
Texas Master Naturalists, Coastal Prairie Chapter, Inc.
Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Fort Bend County
1402 Band Road, Suite 100
Rosenberg, Texas 77471
Direct line: 281-633-7033
Master Naturalist Phone: 281-633-7042
Fax: 281-633-7070



The Texas Master Naturalist of Texas activities are coordinated by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Texas Master Naturalist and Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A & M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids, services or accommodations in order to participate in this Extension event are required to call 281-342-3034 seven working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.



Volunteer Application Form

And consent for criminal background history check authorization/waiver

To be completed by Extension program volunteers (EFNEP, BLT, etc.) and Master Volunteers only. 4-H volunteers must register online via 4-H CONNECT or by completing the 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-1.056)

Please print:

1. APPLICANT'S FULL, LEGAL NAME	2. COUNTY
3. ADDRESS	4. CITY ZIP
5. FIRST 5 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	6. DATE OF BIRTH
7. DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER (optional)	8. GENDER (circle one) Male / Female
9. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity? Yes / No	10. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AREA

RACE (circle one) White / Black / Asian / American Indian
Alaskan Native / Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander

Previously Screened

11. I verify that I have been previously screened including a criminal background check and PASSED. Yes No

If yes, by who? _____ When (Year): _____
For what purpose? _____

Did you pass? If not, what restrictions were imposed? _____
If you have been screened and passed a criminal background check through an Extension-approved entity, a letter/proof must be submitted.

Please sign at the bottom of the form.

12. I hereby authorize VERIFYI and/or its Service Provider and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to request and receive any and all background information about or concerning me, including, but not limited to, my Criminal History, Driving Record, Employment History, Military Background, Civil Listings, Educational Background, Professional License from any Individual, Corporation, Partnership, Law Enforcement Agency, and other entities including my Present and Past Employers. I authorize the Texas AgriLife Extension Service or any of its components to make reference checks relating to my volunteer service. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility as a volunteer/employee with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

The criminal history, as received from the reporting agencies, may include arrest and conviction data, as well as plea bargains and deferred adjudications and delinquent conduct committed as a juvenile. I understand that this information will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for an employment / volunteer position with this organization. I also understand that as long as I remain an employee or volunteer here, the criminal history check may be repeated at any time. I understand that I will have an opportunity to review the criminal history as received by client/agency and a procedure is available for clarification, if I dispute the record as received. I also understand that the criminal history could contain information presumed to be expunged.

I further release and discharge VERIFYI and their Service Provider and all of their Subsidiaries, Affiliates, Officers, Employees, Contract Personnel, or Associates, from any and all claims and liability arising out of any request for information or records pursuant to this authorization and/or procurement of an investigative consumer report and understand that it may contain information about my character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living, whichever are applicable.

I understand that I have the right to make written request within a reasonable period of time to VERIFYI for additional information concerning the nature and scope of the investigation. I acknowledge that I have voluntarily provided the above information for employment/volunteer purposes, and I have carefully read and understand this authorization.

13. Date

14. Applicant's Signature

Volunteer Application Form Instructions

1. Applicant's Printed Name – Complete with first name, middle name and last name.
2. County – Complete with the county name in which you are applying to be a volunteer.
- 3/4. Address – Complete with your current mailing address, city and zip code.
5. Social Security Number – Complete with at least the **first five** digits of the social security number. The social security number is an individual descriptor that enables the system to complete a national criminal search of 47 jurisdictions.
6. Date of Birth – Complete with the month, day and year of birth.
7. Driver's License Number – Complete with current driver's license number and state. Although optional, this helps affirm your identity during a background check.
8. Gender – Complete by circling one of the options.
9. Race – Complete the race and ethnicity section by circling the answers that apply. This field is optional; however, it is very important in confirming accurate identity.
10. Volunteer Program Area – Complete with the program area you are volunteering for (e.g., Better Living for Texans, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, Master Wellness Volunteer).
**4-H volunteers should complete the Texas 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-1.056).*
11. Previously Screened – Texas AgriLife Extension Service will accept prior screenings conducted within the past three years from other entities. The approved list of prior screenings either as an employee or volunteer include: school districts, churches, youth groups/associations (Little League, sports associations, etc.), youth agencies/organizations (Big Brother/Big Sister, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, after school/extended care programs), law enforcement (county, state or federal/prison system), Texas Youth Commission, Department of Defense – Child and Youth Services, Department of Defense – Family Programs, concealed handgun license; and/or licensed childcare workers.
** The minimum requirement is a criminal background check conducted through DPS or a National Criminal Search entity.**
*** Other sources may be considered based on documentation provided with screening criteria and specifics.***
**** Documentation is required for screenings from other entities. This could include a letter of acceptance from the employer or volunteer group, or a letter written from the screening entity to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service stating you have been screened and tested.*
12. Authorization Statement – State agencies screening volunteers are required by legislation to use the Volunteer Center of North Texas. The Volunteer Center contracts with VERIFYI. VERIFYI is a background verification software system that accesses multi-jurisdiction checks utilizing one of the largest private-sector criminal history databases in the nation (180 million records). All information received is held in confidence and not shared at the county level. Criminal record results are shredded when a volunteer's status is determined.
13. Date Completed
14. Applicant's Signature