

El Camino Real Chapter

2025 Training Class

<http://txmn.org/elcamino/>

January - April 2025

Most Thursdays 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

All-Saint's Episcopal Church

200 N Travis Ave

Cameron, Texas

Alan Rudd – Training Chair

(979) 220-2238

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[Texas Master Naturalist Home Page](#)

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El Camino Real Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ program The Texas Master Naturalist™ program activities are coordinated by Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Texas Master Naturalist™ programs serve all people regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Mission: To develop a corps of well-educated “Master Volunteers” to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated toward the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

Method: The program will furnish participants with essential information and strategies to restore and conserve our indigenous species and habitats. Throughout training, area experts will cover interesting topics about our natural resources and lead hands-on field trips to area ecosystems.

Projects: Texas Master Naturalist TM trainees may select from a wide variety of approved local projects to volunteer their time, including habitat restoration, native plant rescues, prairie seed collection, schoolyard habitats, educational presentations, and projects of their own design.

Requirements: To become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist TM of the El Camino Real Chapter, trainees must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Have one of the first 20 completed applications received with payment attached
2. Pass a background criminal investigation
3. Complete attendance to training classes and field trips
4. Perform a minimum of 40 hours of approved volunteer service projects within 15 months of the date of the first training session.
5. Complete 8 hours of approved advanced training classes within 15 months of the date of the first training session. To maintain “Certified” status in the El Camino Real Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists must complete the following annually:

1. Perform 40 hours of volunteer service on approved projects
2. Complete 8 hours of advanced training in approved classes

The 2025 training session is scheduled to meet 3 Thursday evenings per month. Our Chapter meeting is every 2nd Thursday and you are warmly invited to attend this as well. Three to four field trips will be held on Saturdays and no class will be held those weeks. Field trip carpools will be encouraged and coordinated. Most classes will be held at the All-Saint’s Episcopal Church, 200 N Travis Ave, Cameron. A detailed schedule will be published at our first training session in January. The fee for this training is \$150 per person and includes all class materials.

Apply: A minimum of ten applicants will be required to make the first class. The first 20 applications received will be chosen to undergo criminal background checks and, if passed, attend the 2025 class. Applications are only complete if they are received with a check payable to El Camino Real Master Naturalist.

Accessibility: Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife coordinate The Texas Master Naturalist™ program activities. Texas Master Naturalist™ programs serve all people regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. As developed, this course may involve walking in fields and climbing a mountain. Please advise as soon as possible of auxiliary service or aid that you require.

Background Check: You might find yourself in a situation where you chaperone youth while serving as a Texas Master Naturalist™ Thus the Youth Protection Standards process requires that all volunteers undergo a criminal background check. The procedure is in place for all volunteers and they will be screened prior to being accepted into the class and as required or every three years thereafter. This is a background check based upon the first five digits of the applicant's social security number. The criminal history, as received by the reporting agencies, may include arrest and conviction data as well as plea bargains and deferred adjudications and delinquent conduct as committed as a juvenile. No credit report is either requested or obtained.

Mailing: Please return the completed and signed application, as well as the signed Texas Master Naturalist™ Volunteer Policy, to Alan Rudd: 7241 Edwards Lake Road. Somerville, TX. 77879

The application deadline is January 16, 2025.

You must mail the \$150 fee with your application. Please make check payable to El Camino Real Master Naturalist.

Please do not return an application without a check for the training fee.

If you are unable to attend this 2025 training session, but have further interest, we hope to have subsequent classes. Thank you for your interest in the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program. We look forward to your participation in this educational and beneficial volunteer program.

El Camino Real Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ program Application.

The application deadline is January 16, 2025 or when the class fills, whichever comes first. Please print clearly and return your application and check (made out to El Camino Real Master Naturalists) to: Alan Rudd: 7241 Edwards Lake Road. Somerville, TX. 77879

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

YES, I will be available for the training sessions to be held each month from January to April 2025. I understand that I am required to accrue at least 40 hours of training during the scheduled classes and field trips in order to graduate and receive the Texas Master Naturalist™ title. In addition, I must complete 40 hours of community volunteer service and 8 hours of approved advanced training by (15 months from class start) in order to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist™

Volunteer Pledge: I understand that in exchange for the training made possible through the El Camino Real Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist™ program I will volunteer at least 40 hours of my time towards approved Volunteer Service projects and complete 8 hours of advanced training during my first 15 months as a Master Naturalist in training. I understand that when I complete both the training and volunteer work I will become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist™

Signature / Date

Volunteer Policy & Liability Release

- I understand that I must attend a minimum of 40 hours of Texas Master Naturalist™ training. Once the class has been completed, I will then be eligible for graduation as a Texas Master Naturalist™
- I understand that I must complete the above training, plus a minimum 40 hours of volunteer service and at least 8 hours of advanced training to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist™
- The volunteer service and advanced training must be completed within 15 months from the beginning of the initial Master Naturalist training. To renew my certification as a Texas Master Naturalist™ in succeeding years, I must annually complete a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training.
- I understand that the volunteer service will be done only on projects approved by the Texas AgriLife Extension County Agent and/or a participating Texas Parks and Wildlife employee, and/or the Chapter Volunteer Service Committee. Advanced training outside the chapter must also be pre-approved by the Chapter Training Committee.
- I understand and acknowledge that the local chapter in which I am receiving training may have training, advanced training, and volunteer service requirements exceeding that of the state-established minimum requirements and agree to uphold their locally set standards.
- I agree to faithfully fulfill my obligation as a volunteer participant of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program.

- I agree to present a positive public image that speaks well of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program.
- I agree to actively participate as a team member with other individuals of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program.
- I understand that in consideration of being accepted as a participant in the Texas Master Naturalist™ volunteer 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.

Volunteer Agreement

I understand and agree to uphold the above statements of the Texas Master Naturalist™ Program. I further understand that if, for any reason, I am unable to comply with the above policies and/or complete the requirements, I cannot be certified as a Texas Master Naturalist™

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (please print) _____

Chapter Affiliation El Camino Real