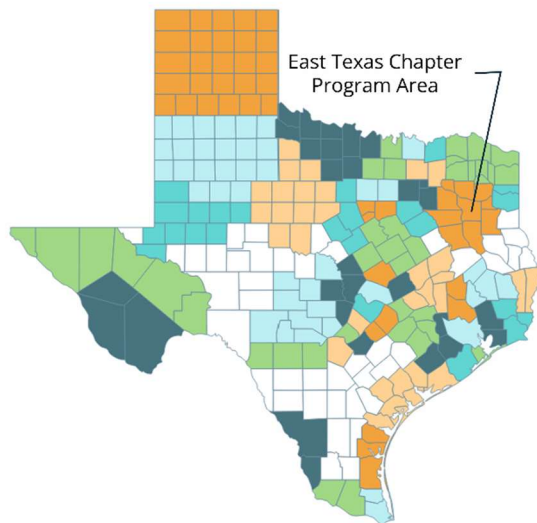


East Texas Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program

Now accepting applications for Spring 2027 Training

The East Texas Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program is holding new member training for people over 18 years of age who are interested in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist. Training classes and/or field trips will begin January 23, 2027 and are tentatively scheduled to be held on thirteen Saturdays (Jan 23, Jan 30, Feb 6, Feb 20, Feb 27, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20, Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17, May 8 and May 15) and two Tuesday evenings Feb 9 and Mar 16.

The Texas Master Naturalist Program's mission 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.



The program area of the East Texas Chapter includes Smith County and the nine surrounding counties. Communities and organizations in the program area, and adjacent areas where no active Master Naturalist Chapters exist, rely on trained citizen volunteers for implementing youth education programs; for assisting parks, nature centers, and natural areas; and for providing leadership in local natural resource conservation efforts.

Annual dues for membership in the East Texas Chapter are \$20 and are due in January of each year.

How to become a Texas Master Naturalist:

- Master Naturalist Trainees must successfully complete an approved training program with at least 40 hours of combined field and classroom instruction through a Texas Master Naturalist Chapter.
- While completing the training above, the candidate serves at least 40 hours of volunteer service in their community and engages in 8 hours of advanced training to advance their knowledge and connection with their ecoregion.
- In subsequent years, the candidate must complete another 8 hours of advanced training and donate 40 hours of volunteer service to maintain their certification (or to re-certify) as a Texas Master Naturalist.

The cost for the initial training program in the East Texas Chapter is \$150 and includes a hardbound copy of the *Texas Master Naturalist Curriculum* and entry fees to most field trip sites,



if applicable. Trainees may purchase digital versions of the curriculum directly from Amazon ([Kindle](#)) or Google ([Google Play](#)) and reduce the training fee by \$50. Download the application to attend training from the [“Join Us”](#) tab on the East Texas Chapter [website](#) (<https://txmn.org/etwd/>).