

## Conduct and Ethics Policy

### Article I

#### Purpose

The purpose of the conduct and ethics policy is to officially adopt, verbatim, the States' two policy documents titled **Standards of Conduct** and **Code of Ethics** for the Gideon Lincecum Chapter. Texas Master Naturalist Standards of Conduct and Code of Ethics documents, establish the values and principles upon which the Master Naturalist program is built and will provide clarification when questions arise about behavior and intentions for the program.

### Article II

#### Standards of Conduct

Master Naturalist program volunteers shall at all times:

1. Uphold the Commitment made to the program and the required volunteer and advanced training hours required by the program.
2. Uphold the dignity and integrity of the Master Naturalist program. They shall endeavor to avoid even the suspicion of dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or unprofessional demeanor.
3. Conduct themselves appropriately to context and setting at all times.
4. Be considerate and respect other's points of view.
5. Keep accurate records of volunteer service, training and research, and regularly notify your local chapter of these records.
6. Avoid performing service when such service is judged to be contrary to the Code of Ethics or detrimental to the well-being of the program and its sponsors.
7. Provide maximum possible effort in the best interest of each client and/or volunteer project regardless of the degree of remuneration.
8. Be mindful of their responsibility to society and the program.
9. Studiously avoid discrimination in any form, or the abuse of program authority, certification, or membership for personal satisfaction. Avoid advocacy, lobbying or promoting political issues.
10. Cooperate fully with professionals and other Master Naturalist volunteers in the best interest of our natural resources.
11. Refrain from advertising in a self-laudatory manner, beyond statements intended to inform prospective clients or members of qualifications, or in a manner detrimental to the Master Naturalist program and its volunteers.

12. Avoid all use of alcohol and controlled substances while on duty as a Master Naturalist volunteer. Reporting for service while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance will result in termination from volunteer service.
13. Accept responsibility for decisions made and actions taken based on these decisions.

### **Article III Code of Ethics**

Each member, in striving to meet the mission, goals and objectives of the Master Naturalist program, pledges to:

1. Subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct.
2. Promote and support the statewide and local Master Naturalist program
3. Respect the state sponsors of Texas Parks & Wildlife and Texas Cooperative Extension and their roles and expectations.
4. Disseminate information to promote understanding of, and appreciation for, the values of our natural resources.
5. Strive to increase knowledge and skills to advance as a Master Naturalist volunteer
6. Promote competence as a Master Naturalist volunteer by supporting high standards of education, service and performance.
7. Encourage the use of sound biological information in education and outreach and in management decisions.
8. Support fair and uniform standards of service and treatment of those engaged in the Master Naturalist program.
9. Know and follow established program guidelines and policies
10. Abide by chapter bylaws
11. Avoid use of the Master Naturalist title, logos and trademarks for personal endeavors and/or profit.
12. Act as trustworthy and ethical stewards of the environment
13. Never inappropriately disturb or harass wildlife, never inappropriately remove anything from its natural state or area.