

CHAPTER OPERATING HANDBOOK

APPENDIX D:

Advanced Training Policies

The purpose of Advanced Training is to provide Texas Master Naturalists an opportunity to focus their interests on one, or a few, specific topics that interest them. Advanced Training on an annual basis promotes continued learning and development. Advanced Training is a benefit in itself, providing the experienced Master Naturalist with tools to work in more advanced volunteer efforts.

Advanced Training courses may be available through Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, or as short courses provided by universities or nature centers, including approved interactive webinars. The chapter also sponsors some Advanced Training sessions. The chapter's Advanced Training Director must pre-approve all Advanced Training opportunities before the volunteer reports the hours. Educational television shows are not a form of Advanced Training and therefore should not be approved as such. Advanced Training hours are also counted one hour for each hour of Advanced Training; travel time is *not* included for Advanced Training hours. Pre-approval must be obtained for an Advanced Training session that is outside the chapter boundaries.

Trainees can informally record their Advanced Training hours after the date of the New Class Reception. Trainees can formally report their Advanced Training hours after the how-to-report information is provided in class.

The Advanced Training Committee uses the following criteria and asks the following questions of the opportunity when reviewing and approving Advanced Training opportunities:

Does the Advanced Training opportunity:

1. Promote continued learning and development of naturalist skills?
2. Provide Master Naturalists with knowledge and skills to work in volunteer efforts?
3. Direct trained volunteers toward specific programs in need of their services?
4. Provide practical information and training for application in volunteer efforts?
5. Take advantage of local partnerships?
6. Provide Master Naturalists an opportunity to focus their interests in one or a few specific topics?
7. Build on the core curriculum initially provided by the local chapter?
8. Provide natural resource management issues and information applicable to Texas?