

Do you want to be a Texas Master Naturalist?

The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program 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.



Spring 2024 Initial Training Information



Training Dates: January 17 - April 24, 2024

Wednesday Nights 5:00 – 8:00PM

**Location: Tarleton State University Agricultural Center
Stephenville, Texas**

Participants must be at least 18 years of age.

Applications will be accepted November 1-30, 2023, but will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Because space is limited, we recommend submitting your application early.

Registration Payment Options:

- 1. Individual Registration with Textbook \$100/person**
- 2. Couple Registration with shared Textbook \$75/person**
- 3. Individual Registration with borrowed Textbook \$65/person***

***Limited quantities of the textbook are available to borrow.**

*****Financial assistance options available. (Limited availability.)*****





Certification Requirements: The minimum requirements for certification as a Texas Master Naturalist include completion of a minimum of 40 hours of Initial Training, a minimum of 8 hours of Advanced Training, and 40 hours of volunteer service. It is the intention of this course to provide opportunities for all 40 hours of initial training to be completed during the time frame of this course. It is also possible that some participants will acquire advanced training and volunteer service hours during this time frame. Participants are encouraged to complete all certification requirements by the end of the calendar year, December 31, 2024.

Initial Training Hours Available: This course will include opportunities for at least 45 in-classroom hours (Wednesdays 5-8pm) and at least 15 field hours (various Saturdays and Sundays throughout the class). A live Zoom option will be available for in-classroom sessions, but we encourage participants to attend in person whenever feasible. We understand that life happens and also respectfully ask that participants utilize the Zoom anytime they may have a contagious illness. There will likely be one or more cancellations due to weather that may or may not be rescheduled; please plan accordingly.

Make-up/Absence Opportunities: In the event that you cannot attend an in-classroom session, recorded Zoom make up opportunities will be available for up to 3 sessions, for a total of 9 initial training hours. The make-up opportunities will require participants to watch the class recording and complete a short assignment.

Volunteering: The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program 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. Texas Master Naturalist certification requires 40 hours of volunteer service annually; this volunteer work must be pre-approved by the chapter in order to be counted toward certification. Participants in the Spring 2024 training class may begin volunteer service immediately after their Volunteer Management System (VMS) account is set up and their background check is completed through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. All hours must be logged within 45 days of service.





Week	Example Classroom Topic Schedule	
1	Class Orientation	Texas Master Naturalist Program
2	Texas Ecoregions	Ecological Concepts
3	Regional Geology	Soil Science
4	Weather and Climate	Woodland Ecology
5	Scientific Classification	Ecology and Diversity of Insects
6	Public Outreach	Volunteering Opportunities
7	Bird Ecology	Wetland Ecology
8	Ecosystem Management	Land Stewardship
9	Education and Interpretation	
10	Archaeology	Historic Naturalists
11	Urban Ecosystems	Citizen Science
12	Rangeland Management	Laws, Regulations, and Ethics
13	Plant Biology	Mammals of Texas
14	Aquatic Systems Ecology	Texas Groundwater Resources
15	Reptiles and Amphibians	Fish Ecology

Activity	Example Field Experience Schedule
1	Local Geology (2.5 hours) Local Soil Morphology and Ecology (2.5 hours)
2	Woodland Ecology and Nature Interpretation (<4 hours)
3	Aquatic Ecology & Surface Water Quality Assessment (2.5 hours)
4	Birding and Bird Ecology (2.5 hours)
5	Sustainable Practices (2.5 hours)

