

T E X A S



Life's Better Outside®



Dear Texas Master Naturalist Program Applicant:

This program, jointly sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Parks and Wildlife, will furnish you with basic information and strategies to restore and conserve our indigenous species and habitats. Each class or field trip is conducted by a local professional. The classes cover interesting topics about our natural resources and provide hands-on field trips to study local ecosystems. Our application as well as the dates for and specific class and field trip topics are listed in the training agenda available at our website:

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

A maximum of 25 applicants will be selected to attend the class. Selection criteria include: interest in the program and commitment to stewardship of our natural resources. The fee for the training session is \$100.00, which includes your individual dues for 2017, and is used to pay for the curriculum for each trainee, name tags and other class material/costs. Once you've received the curriculum, this fee is nonrefundable. We often carpool, however transportation to field trip destinations is up to the individual trainee.

A Texas Master Naturalist may select from a wide variety of approved local projects to volunteer their time. Projects may include habitat restoration, native plant rescues, interpretive trail building, school habitats, educational presentations, or projects of your own design. To receive initial certification as a Texas Master Naturalist, trainees must fulfill the following three requirements:

- 1) Attendance at all training classes, including field trips (about 40 hours total). You may miss one class and still be allowed to become certified. More than one absence does not prohibit you from participating in activities towards certification, but will require make up before you can receive certification.
- 2) 40 hours of volunteer service on approved projects within a year of the end of the class.
- 3) 8 hours of advanced training in approved classes within a year.

To be recertified annually requires completion of numbers two and three above. Annual recertification is an option, not a requirement. Once you receive your initial certification you remain a Texas Master Naturalist. However, to remain active in the chapter requires payment of dues. Dues are payable on January 1st of each year and are currently set at \$15.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Master Naturalist Program. We look forward to your participation in the program. You will be contacted no later than March 4 about your selection for the spring training class. For more information, please contact either Robert or Terry using the information below.

Sincerely,

Robert Mauk
Chapter Advisor
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
940-766-2383
robert.mauk@tpwd.texas.gov

Terry McKee
Chapter President
TMN Rolling Plains Chapter
940-766-4097
dgm59@aol.com

**ROLLING PLAINS CHAPTER OF THE TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM
VOLUNTEER SERVICE AGREEMENT:**

We appreciate your commitment to the Rolling Plains Texas Master Naturalist Program. Your satisfaction and progress in this volunteer position is important to us. Please read the following expectations and indicate your willingness to volunteer by signing the end of this form. Volunteers who are unable to adhere to all items in this agreement may be required to forfeit their certification as a Texas Master Naturalist.

I understand that I am to be trained in the field of Master Naturalist and I am expected to extend research based information to the public on behalf of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Rolling Plains Master Naturalists. In exchange for the training I receive I will:

- Commit to a minimum of 40 hours of Volunteer Service to the program within 15 months
- Commit to a minimum of 8 hours of Advance Training in the program within 15 months
- Provide a record of service and training as directed by the Master Naturalist Program
- Apply for a Criminal Background Check through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Volunteer Management System during my initial sign on into the system. I understand that this background check will be periodically reviewed/renewed.

When acting as a Master Naturalist volunteer I agree to:

- Consistently exhibit a positive professional manner to other volunteers and clients.
- Avoid any conflict of interest and I agree to not use my Master Naturalist status/title to promote any commercial activity or private business.
- When performing duties as a Master Naturalist I agree to act in the highest standards of ethics:
 - Not physically, verbally, or sexually harass/abuse anyone
 - Refrain from illegal or unsafe behavior
 - Dress appropriately and not use harsh language

I understand that, as a volunteer, I will not receive any pay or employee benefits. I also understand that I am not covered by worker's compensation laws in connection with my volunteer affiliation.

I understand that in consideration of being accepted as a participant in the Texas Master Naturalist volunteer program ("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.

I understand the above requirements of the Texas Master Naturalist Program:

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (please print) _____

IMPORTANT: You must return your completed application before the deadline of March 3, 2017. You must include the \$100.00 fee with your application. Once you've received the curriculum, this fee is nonrefundable. Please make your check payable to: Rolling Plains Chapter TMN.

Rolling Plains Chapter Texas Master Naturalist™ Program Application

IMPORTANT: You must return the completed application before the deadline of *March 3, 2017*.
You must include the \$100.00 fee with your application. Once you've received the curriculum, this fee is nonrefundable.

Please make your check or money order payable to: Rolling Plains Chapter TMN.

Please type or print clearly.

LEGAL NAME: _____

Street _____

City/State _____ County _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: Day/Work _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Emergency Contact Information _____

Gender (Circle One) Male / Female

I identify as (Optional, Circle One) White African American Hispanic/Latino Asian

Pacific Islander Native Hawaiian Native American Native Alaskan Other

Email address _____

Place of employment: _____

1) Describe how you first learned about and why you are interested in the Texas Master Naturalist volunteer program.

2) Please tell us a little about yourself – occupation, interests, education, special skills, how long you've lived in the area – any or all of the above.

3) What aspects of the Texas Master Naturalist volunteer program most interest you?

AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

Please rate each area as **HIGH, MEDIUM, OR LOW.**

Education/Public Information

Speakers Bureau - (presentations) _____
Guide or Docent (special projects) _____
Children's Activities _____
Other _____

Field Research/Surveys

Prairie Ecosystems _____
Wetland Ecosystems _____
Plant & Wildlife Census (bird, insect, amphibian, etc.) _____
Habitat Restoration Projects _____
Native Plant/Seed Collection _____
Other _____

Administration

Fund Raising _____
Computer Work _____
Newsletter _____
Other _____

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST™ PROGRAM

This program is a collaborative effort of professionals from
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

This program is intended to serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex religion, disability or national origin. We seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Please advise us as soon as possible of auxiliary aid or service that you require.

Return your completed application to:

Rolling Plains Chapter TMN
Attn: Robert Mauk
409 Chester Avenue
Wichita Falls, TX 76301-5304