



Texas Master Naturalist 2017 Annual Meeting State Representatives Guide

Call for Proposals:

The Texas Master Naturalist Program welcomes your proposals as contributions to our agenda! Individuals wishing to present are invited to submit their proposal on the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting website: <http://txmn.org/2017-annual-meeting/>.

As a workshop presenter, you would have the opportunity to inform and train TMN members from across the state on various natural resource topics providing more in-depth information than their initial core training and curriculum. You are also encouraged to make this an opportunity to enlist and train our program volunteers to assist you, your program, and your work as part of their annual volunteer service commitment.

The deadline for submissions is **June 1st, 2017**. A notice of receipt will be automatically generated and sent by e-mail. If you do not receive notification of receipt within 10 days or have any questions about proposal submission, please contact Mary Pearl Meuth (mpmeuth@tamu.edu). Proposals received after the deadline and before registration opening may be considered if space is available.

Proposals Requested

Proposals for workshops are being requested for the Texas Master Naturalist 18th Annual Meeting. All training workshops relevant to the Texas Master Naturalist mission will be considered. Special consideration will be given to proposals that address one or more of the following themes:

- **Special topics for 2017 include** – *Developing and utilizing social media resources; Non-game species and the roles they play in conservation across the state; engaging diverse audiences in the Master Naturalist programs – as members and as an audience; leadership skills for managing groups of volunteers when conflicts arise; the shared roles of hunters & recreational natural resource users in the larger game of Texas conservation plans*
- **Citizen Science programs**—*hands-on, train the trainer type workshops strongly encouraged. Workshops covering iNaturalist, other apps, and technology resources for volunteer monitoring programs also strongly encouraged. Taking the next step with citizen science tools and linking them together.*
- **Program and Chapter Management topics**-- *including marketing, branding, local program evaluation and assessment, building and maintaining effective partnerships, leadership skills, volunteer and group management techniques and educational technology relevant to natural resource conservation, education and outreach.*
- **Interpretation and communication**-- *including working with diverse audiences, techniques and developing interpretive programs for all ages, incorporating storytelling as an interpretive tool, targeting non-traditional audiences for natural resource programs.*
- **Traditional disciplines of a naturalist**-- *botany, entomology, ornithology, mammalogy, herpetology, paleontology, geology, archaeology, ichthyology, etc.*
- **Management of natural systems and systems management tools**-- *including forest, rangeland, wetland, aquatic and urban ecology & management, hunting and prescribed fire, and other management tools.*

TMN Advanced Training Sessions:

SESSIONS

Advanced Training Sessions include training on a specific skills, technique, or process and may involve one or more instructors. Sessions are intended to emphasize learning through participation, discussion, and hands on interactive presentations on natural resource topics that model good interpretive methods. Advanced Training Sessions should also aim to provide participants with new skills to apply in their area of service or better prepare them to provide service in the topic area you are teaching. These could also include presentations introducing a natural resource topic or program to solicit the interest of TMN volunteers or to present resources and partnerships that may assist Master Naturalist chapters in their communities. They are also typically hands-on Sessions are scheduled to run concurrently with other conference events and topics and are open to all meeting registrants on a walk-in basis. Training sessions may range from 1 hour to 4-hour blocks. Typical attendance at sessions can range from 10 to 50 registrants.

Additional Characteristics of TMN Advanced Training Sessions may include:

- Promotes continued learning and development of naturalist skills
- Provides Master Naturalists with practical information, knowledge and skills to apply in volunteer efforts
- Directs trained volunteers toward specific programs/partnerships in need of their services
- Takes advantage of state and local partnerships
- Provides TMNs with an opportunity to focus their interests in one or a few specific topics
- Builds on the core curriculum initially provided by the program and the local chapter
- Provides information applicable to current natural resource management issues in Texas
- Applies to and addresses a broad range of TMN volunteers (geographically, etc.) across the state.

Information required for a Proposal:

- **Presentation Title** (make it catchy!)
- **Presentation Abstract** – A short description of the session--3-5 sentence paragraph (about 100 words) describing the session, what volunteers will learn, what they will need to wear and/or bring with them. (This information will be used directly in our Full Agenda)
- **Presentation Theme** – taking a cue off the themes of the TMN program & curriculum
- **Duration** – Length of time (in hours) requested for presentation
- **Presentation Environmental** needs for presentation: Indoors classroom? Outdoors? Field Trip?
- **Technology Needs** for presentation and participants where applicable (i.e. bring your own device): WiFi? Projector? Laptop? Microphone?
- Contact Information for primary presenter/training team lead: Organization, email
- Additional Trainer(s)/Presenter(s) names, titles and organization(s)
- **Maximum Class Size** (12 - 60 or more)
- Are there additional needs you have for your presentation?

State Representative's SAMPLE SCRIPT:

I am contacting you because of the exceptional presentation you made to the [Lost Pines Master Naturalists]. I [am our chapter's State Representative and] wanted to let you know about the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting held each fall in October. Master Naturalists from across the state attend to network and participate in training classes on topics ranging from chapter administration to water analysis to wildlife management.

I encourage you to review the information for this year's meeting, being held October 20-22 at Omni Corpus Christi, at the Texas Master Naturalist website, TXMN.org. Proposals for training sessions, which can be anywhere from 30 minutes to full days, are currently being solicited. We are looking for presenters who have demonstrated both expertise and presentation skills, and would be pleased to have you submit a proposal.

While we regrettably cannot offer an honorarium, the meeting and training conference offers a unique opportunity for networking with your peers in related fields, soliciting TMN volunteers with your project proposals, as well interacting with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension personnel and other experts. The meeting has grown along with the Texas Master Naturalist program, attracting 475 attendees last year.

I have attached a document providing details about the meeting and the proposal process. Proposals can be made on-line at <http://www.regonline.com/TXMN2017CallforProposals>. The deadline for submissions is **Friday June 3rd, 2016**. If you have any questions about the Annual Meeting, please contact Mary Pearl Meuth by email (mpmeuth@tamu.edu) or by phone (979) 845-7294. Hope to see you there!

Marsha Elrod
Texas Master Naturalist
[Lost Pines Chapter] [State Representative]

Call for Proposals Frequently Asked Questions:

- o How do they submit a proposal? Proposals can be submitted online through the TMN Proposal website created: <http://www.regonline.com/TXMN2017CallforProposals>
- o What information is needed on a proposal? The basics are Presentation title, an abstract about what will be presented, the theme or topic for the presentation, and the duration of the presentation.
- o Is there any available compensation for travel? Typically no. Most of our speakers will come to share their passion with a like-minded passionate group. If compensation is needed, either via travel funds or the conference contract rooming rates, that can be discussed. Have them email/call Mary Pearl
- o Is there a registration discount or any perks? Of course there are perks – they are a presenter for the TMN group! But no, we typically do not have a discount for registration. Again, if this is a limiting factor, have them email/call Mary Pearl.
- o When/how will their proposal be accepted? The deadline for submissions is June 1st, and we will try to have the final proposal selections done by end of July or early August.
- o How many presenters/sessions do we normally have at the Annual Meeting? Last year at La Torretta we had 100+ concurrent sessions offered by 60+ presenters (many of them spoke multiple times). It will be relatively similar this year at Omni Corpus Christi. Additionally, our total attendance last year was a little over 475.
- o Who has spoken at past Annual Meetings? This can be found on our Annual Meeting historical page by looking at previous years agendas. Check it out here: <http://www.txmn.org/past-annual-meetings>