

FAQ TMN License Plates

1. What's all the excitement about having a TMN license plate?

Answer: TMN volunteers have been asking about the possibility of a TMN/Naturalist License Plate for several years. In 2016 TMN volunteers stepped up to coordinate such an effort. At the 2016 TMN Annual Meeting, a presentation was made by TMN Allison Copony, Heartwood Chapter, with input from TMN Emily Hawthorn, Alamo Chapter, about the need for TMN to have the ability to own a plate advertising the work of the TMN Program. It had been noted that Texas Master Gardeners have a specialty plate and how a TMN license would promote a dialogue about the invaluable number of hours donated by TMN across the state of Texas.

2. Who is leading this project to raise \$9000?

Answer: TMN Allison Copony, Heartwood Chapter, is leading the work of raising the money.

3. Why is it necessary to raise \$9000?

Answer: The State of Texas requires a deposit of \$8000 before a new plate design can be considered.

The additional \$1000 is needed for finalizing artwork and the GoFundMe.com website processing fees. Any additional funds raised that are left over after plate development will be donated to the Texas Master Naturalist Endowment Fund in the name of the TMN volunteers who supported this license plate campaign.

4. Why is GoFundMe.com being utilized?

Answer: GoFundMe is one of the top sites for raising donations for a wide variety of causes. The site is easy to maneuver and makes it easy to communicate and thank donors.

5. What happens after the \$9000 is raised?

Answer: Work begins on producing the plate. \$8000 will be used to produce the plates. The TMN license plate will be produced and managed by the TPWD Conservation License Plate program. Funds generated from the sale of license plates will be available for conservation grants – which could include grants given to the TMN program statewide.

6. How will the TMN license plate be designed?

Answer: It is expected the TMN license plate will have a beautiful dragonfly displayed on the plate. TEXAS will appear at the top of the plate and some iteration of “Master Naturalist” or “Be a Texas Naturalist” will appear at the bottom of the plate. An early mockup was made by TPWD, see below:



7. How can I support the effort for TMN license plate?

Answer: Make a donation at: <https://www.gofundme.com/TMNlicenseplate>

Tell all your family and friends to support the work of the TMN and make a donation too.

8. How much of a donation should I make?

Answer: Any amount can be donated! With over 9000 TMN, if everyone gives a donation, the goal could be reached in no time.

9. Who will be allowed to own a TMN license plate?

Answer: Anyone can own a TMN license plate as long as all the appropriate fees are paid.

10. Can the new TMN license plate be personalized?

Answer: Yes, for a fee, it can be personalized.

11. Who will oversee the marketing of the new TMN license plate?

Answer: The marketing will be overseen by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Communication and Marketing Division. See the other license plates produced by the TPWD Conservation License Plate Program: <http://www.conservationplate.org/>

12. Is the donation for the GoFundMe account tax deductible???

Answer: According to the GoFundMe website's FAQ's: "Donations made to GoFundMe Personal campaigns are generally considered to be personal gifts and are not guaranteed to be tax-deductible. You can always check with a tax professional to be sure."

13. Are the fees for the Conservation license Plates tax-deductible?

Answer: A portion of the fees for any of the Conservation License Plates may be tax deductible. One would need to check with their personal accountant.