



Life's better outside.®

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Master Naturalist Program (TMN). This program is supported by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. It is designed to increase the availability of information about the natural world and provide volunteers to help improve the quality of life of residents throughout the Collin and Hunt Counties. The Blackland Prairie Chapter of TMN is made up of certified members who have been trained and who have annually met the required number of volunteer service hours and advanced training hours.

While Members-in-Training will personally benefit from the TMN training program, the principle criteria for acceptance into the program is your availability and willingness to provide **volunteer service to the community**.

The TMN training program conducted by the Blackland Prairie Chapter covers topics such as ecological systems, geology and soils of the Blackland Prairie, Prairie plants, Prairie ecology, ornithology, herpetology, entomology, mammalogy, weather and climate, aquatic systems. Regional experts will present these topics throughout the class sessions.

The training program consists of 13 class sessions that meet Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. from February through May. It also includes three required field trips. Field trip locations and dates vary. Classes will be conducted at the Science Resource Center building located on grounds of the Heard Natural History Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, 1 Nature Place, McKinney, Texas.

The TMN Training Program fee is \$150 and includes the cost of the TMN textbook as well as membership dues for the Blackland Prairie Chapter for the class year. No refunds will be made if you withdraw from the program after January 31, 2020.

Upon completion of your coursework and the three required field trips, you will receive a Certificate of Completion.

The next step to becoming a *certified* TMN requires that you also:

1. Accrue **40 hours of volunteer service before May 15, 2021**. This service must be on projects approved by the Chapter.
2. Acquire **8 hours of advanced training before May 15, 2021** via a Chapter approved events.

Once those requirements are met, you will be awarded your Certified Texas Master Naturalist certificate, your official Texas Master Naturalist name badge, and your initial certification dragonfly pin.

After the May 15, 2021 deadline, you can still become a Certified TMN provided you complete at least 40 volunteer service hours and 8 advanced training hours *in a single year*, assuming you previously received the Certificate of Completion for your coursework.

You may even find yourself so involved and immersed in your Texas Master Naturalist experience that you complete **80 or more** hours of volunteer service and **16 or more** hours of advanced training by December 31, 2020. This makes you eligible for double certification, and you will receive an annual recertification pin in addition to your initial certification dragonfly pin.

On behalf of the Blackland Prairie Chapter of TMN, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment. We believe you are going to have a long-term, enjoyable and satisfying experience with our Chapter.

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