



Life's better outside.®

November 1, 2020

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist and a member of the Blackland Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. This program is supported by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

We are a corps of trained and certified volunteers who provide services to the communities of Collin and Hunt Counties through public educational programs that:

- Promote public awareness of local ecosystems
- Foster an appreciation of the diversity of our plant and animal species
- Encourage stewardship and conservation of our natural environment
- Provide opportunities for our members to use and expand their knowledge and skills in ways that will benefit and promote the Texas Master Naturalist program.

As a Member-in-Training, you will personally benefit from our training program. However, the principle criteria for acceptance into the program is your availability and willingness to provide volunteer service to the community.

Visit our website at <https://txmn.org/bptmn/join-our-chapter> to view our 2021 class and field trip schedule. This year's training program will be conducted as a blended online and in-person series. We will conduct the first several class sessions online and later sessions outdoors. Note that this is subject to change based on weather conditions and the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. You will need reliable Internet access and a computer or tablet with keyboard. Smartphones are unsuitable for successfully participating in the training program.
2. In-person class sessions will be conducted outdoors in small groups in accordance with our Chapter's COVID-19 policies in place at that time. These policies are derived from state and local COVID-19 health and safety requirements with guidance from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. If you would like more detail before applying to the program, please contact Jean Suplick, New Class Director, education@bptmn.org.

The training program fee of \$165 includes the Texas Master Naturalist textbook and Blackland Prairie Chapter membership dues for the 2021 calendar year. No refunds will be made if you withdraw from the program after January 31, 2021.

Upon completing your training requirements, you will receive a certificate of course completion. Then, to become a certified Texas Master Naturalist, you must also:

1. Accrue **40 hours of volunteer service before May 15, 2022**. This service must be on projects approved by the Chapter.
2. Acquire **8 hours of advanced training before May 15, 2022** via participation in Chapter approved events.

Upon meeting those requirements, you will be a fully certified Texas Master Naturalist and you will be awarded your certificate, your official Texas Master Naturalist name badge, and your initial certification dragonfly pin. To maintain your certification thereafter, you must perform at least 40 volunteer service hours and accrue 8 hours of advanced training hours annually *within each calendar year to maintain your status as a certified Texas Master Naturalist*.

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, 2021. 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, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment. We believe you will have a long, enjoyable, and satisfying experience with our Chapter.

Sincerely,

Jean Suplick
New Class Director
Texas Master Naturalist, Blackland Prairie Chapter
education@bptmn.org
(469) 323-8149