This listing uses the following format.

Opportunity Title

(Federal Reporting Category)

* Description
  + Specifics

The Opportunities are listed in alphabetical order, as they would appear in the VMS system.

1. Administrative Work

(Chapter & Program Support, Business, and Administration)

* Chapter Administration Work. Activities related to managing and running a TMN chapter and its committees. Includes Board and Committee preparation and meetings, broadcast chapter announcements and calendar updates, official email / phone / and other communications on chapter business, managing chapter records, hours reporting via VMS system, chapter reporting, assisting the State Program office, and other such administration work. This has an additional drop down list in VMS to use when entering hours, such as: (not a complete list, see dropdown on VMS page)
  + Chapter Meetings
  + President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary duties
  + Hours Management (entering your hours)
  + Board and Committee work
  + Training Class (management, mentoring and support)
  + Hospitality
  + Fund Raising
  + Communications (Secretary and others)
  + Programs (VP, others)
  + Project Management
  + Samaratan VMS Rollout (admin rollout activities)

1. AT: Chapter Mtg or other venue.

(Advanced Training)

* Advanced Training at a Chapter Meeting, or any other Chapter sponsored venue, on any topic of nature, presented by a member of El Camino Real Chapter or other independent individual or organization invited by our chapter. This could include “Book Club” activity for discussions / learning Journaling or other nature skills from recognized authors. [NOTE: AT sessions publicly sponsored by other specific Nature organizations will be logged under separate AT: Opportunities (below), such as TPWD, AgriLife, NPSOT, USDA / NRCS, University professors, etc., especially when they are public "at large" offerings, and would not be included in this Chapter Opportunity.  These AT Opportunities will be created as needed.] The training topic and specifics need to be mentioned in the “Describe your service or training” description box.

1. AT: AgriLife sponsored

(Advanced Training)

* Advanced Training provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The training topic and specifics need to be mentioned in the “Describe your service or training” description box.

1. AT: Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) or TMN Sponsored

(Advanced Training)

* Advanced Training provided by TPWD, and/or Texas Master Naturalist, such as the annual State TMN meeting or others. The training topic and specifics need to be mentioned in the “Describe your service or training” description box.

1. AT: TX Waters Certification Training

(Advance Training)

* With this curriculum, we want to inform and educate the citizens of Texas about the most precious natural resource Texas possesses, its water. Many challenges face our state concerning water, particularly in our aquatic habitats and water for wildlife. This curriculum will allow Texas Master Naturalists and other concerned citizens to earn a Texas Waters Specialist designation and then start giving back to their community by performing community service in areas like: Water focused educational activities such as fairs, festivals, events, outreach, Projects such as habitat restoration, creek cleanups, aquifer recharge/karst feature flagging and clearing, etc., or Demonstrations like runoff models, runoff landscape features such as dry creek beds, rain gardens, etc.  See <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram>

1. AT: VMS Training

(Advanced Training)

* Training received specific to the new VMS hours management system.

1. AT: Webinars

(Advanced Training)

* Various organizations provide webinars on a variety of nature topics – TPWD, USDA, NRCS, Texas Wildlife Association, National Phenology Network (NPN’s Nature Notebook). See [USDA NRCS webinar portal](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/entsc/?cid=nrcs143_021685), [Nature Notebook](https://www.usanpn.org/nn/webinars), and [Texas Wildlife Association](https://www.texas-wildlife.org). Please get advanced approval for any of these before viewing for the purpose of AT hour submission to make sure they qualify.

1. AT: Native Landscape Certification

(Advanced Training)

* For participation and completion of the NPSOT Level 1 and optionally Level 2 and 3 Certification courses for native landscapes.  These classes are held in various locations in Texas on different dates.  Class schedules on <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/>.

1. AT: Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPSOT)

(Advanced Training)

* Advanced Training coordinated by Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPSOT). The Native Prairies Association of Texas (NPAT) is a non-profit land trust dedicated to the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of native prairies, savannas, and other grasslands in Texas. See http://www.texasprairie.org/.    The training topic and specifics need to be mentioned in the "Describe your service or training" description box.

AT: Nature Topics by TX Professors

(Advanced Training)

* AT on various nature topics, provided by Instructors from various central Texas Universities, such as Entomology topics with Bob Baldridge, Baylor; Flora, taxonomy etc. with Dale Kruse, A&M; Flo Oxley, ACC; and others as they arise.  Note specifics in the “Describe your service…” text description.

1. AT: Texas Waters Certification Program

(Advanced Training)

* With this curriculum, we want to inform and educate the citizens of Texas about the most precious natural resource Texas possesses, its water. Many challenges face our state concerning water, particularly in our aquatic habitats and water for wildlife. This curriculum will allow Texas Master Naturalists and other concerned citizens to earn a Texas Waters Specialist designation and then start giving back to their community by performing community service in areas like: Water focused educational activities such as fairs, festivals, events, outreach, Projects such as habitat restoration, creek cleanups, aquifer recharge/karst feature flagging and clearing, etc., or Demonstrations like runoff models, runoff landscape features such as dry creek beds, rain gardens, etc. See <http://tpwd.texas.gov/education/water-education/texaswatersprogram>

1. Cit. Sci.- Cornell / Audubon projects

(Field Research)

* Participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by National Audubon Society and Cornell Labs
* Participation in annual Christmas bird counts, sponsored by Nat’l Audubon Society
* Participation in various “watch” projects sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, such as: Feeder Watch, Nest Watch, eBird, Lost Ladybug Projects

1. Cit. Sci.- CoCoRaHS Reporting

(Field Research)

* Daily monitoring AND reporting of precipitation, sponsored by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). This is the only opportunity where you may report one entry per month for the entire months daily activities, or weekly if preferred.

1. Cit. Sci.- All TPWD Nature Trackers and iNaturalist Observations

(Field Research)

* Recording observations in support of all [TPWD Texas Nature Trackers](http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/) and related via iNaturalist unless noted:
  + [Birds of Texas](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/birds-of-texas) iNaturalist project
  + [Texas eBird](http://ebird.org/content/tx/) observations
  + [Hummingbirds of Texas](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/hummingbirds-of-texas) iNaturalist project
  + [Herps of Texas](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/herps-of-texas) (includes Amphibian Watch, Horned Lizard Watch, Box Turtle Survey)
  + [Mammals of Texas](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/mammals-of-texas)
  + [Fishes of Texas](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fishes-of-texas)
  + [Botanical Treasures](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/texas-botanical-treasures)
  + [Texas Monarch Watch, via Journey North](http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/monarch/)
  + [Texas Mussel Watch](http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/mussel/)
  + [Texas Whooper Watch](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/texas-whooper-watch)
  + [Texas Whooper Watch, via forms](http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/texas_nature_trackers/whooper-watch/report.phtml/)
  + [Texas Turtle Watch (sliders, cooters, softshells) via Ft. Worth Zoo site](https://www.fortworthzoo.org/conservation/fort-worth-zoo-conservation-highlights/texas-turtle-watch/)
* Also, ALL activities of locating, identifying, documenting and sharing via iNaturalist.org a wide variety of nature we found in Milam County (the Nature of Milam County), neighboring counties or anywhere in Texas. For all Texas projects see these search results: [Texas iNaturalist projects](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=texas). For “Nature of Milam County”, use this project [ECRTMN Milam County iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ecrtmn-milam-co-tx). For El Camino Trail flora and fauna use [Floridus milamexa: El Camino Real](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/floridus-milamexa-el-camino-real-trail)

1. Cit. Sci.- Invasive Species

(Field Research)

* Reporting and eradication activities as defined by the TexasInvasives.org web site, sponsored by TPWD, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and others.

1. Cit. Sci.- Journey North migrations

(Field Research)

* Documenting migrations of butterflies, whooping cranes, birds and more. Sponsored by the Annenburg Learner Foundation. See https://www.learner.org/jnorth/

1. Cit. Sci.- Migratory Dragonfly Project

(Field Research)

* Participation in pond watch and migration monitoring of Dragonflies. Sponsored by the Xerces Society.

1. Cit. Sci. – Purple Martin Conservation projects

(Field Research)

* Participation in projects supported by the Purple Martin Conservation Association, such as:
  + Project Martin Watch, http://www.purplemartin.org/pmw/

1. Cit. Sci. – S. M. Tracy Herbarium support of flora collections and documentation

(Field Research)

* Assisting the mission of the S. M. Tracy Herbarium, and creating documentation for them and our chapter, on flora and relief bog environments, involving project organization, field research, voucher creation, species identification and sampling.

1. Community Presentations-Direct

(Training & Educating Others (Direct))

* Effort expended by presenters providing Community Outreach through presentations or interactive hands on activities on various Master Naturalist topics to the general public in a defined setting. Includes hours on field research, preparation of training materials and the presentation itself. This currently includes such approved activities as:
  + Apple Tree Education, public library summer kids programs
  + Ag in the Classroom
  + Programs on Birds, Bats, Water Conservation, etc.
  + Project WILD
  + Chapter Booth with specific Children’s Activities
  + Chapter AT or Initial Training Presentations (by Members, to us or public.)
  + Nature of Milam County chapter or public presentations

1. Community Outreach-Indirect

(Public Outreach (Indirect))

* For activities done to provide: awareness, education and general sharing of our chapter's TMN plans, projects, and events; as well as the general sharing of the Nature of Milam County via informational booths or other open public venues. Specifically, this currently includes:
  + Contributing to and publishing Newsletters to our broad public audience
  + Chapter Website updates
  + Chapter Brochures
  + General publications in newspapers on chapter activities or nature articles
  + Being a docent on Bats at the Congress Avenue Bridge
  + Our Wildlife Hotline.

1. Initial Training

(No Federal Reporting category – not counted by TMN for grant funding)

* For new trainees to record training hours.

1. Nature Improvements Public Areas

(Nature/Public Access)

* Field based activities that improve and manage natural areas or resources with public access. Creating and maintaining nature trails, wildscapes and interpretive gardens.

For all activities associated with the development and support of the Milano Junction Memorial Garden, the Lexington Senior Center Garden, the Francis Nabors Griffen Bird Sanctuary, and the DAR Centennial Park at Nashville Crossing with our partner the ECRNHT Association.  Note the specifics in the "Service Performed" text box.  
  
This may also include other similar activities sponsored by our chapter or other chapters.

1. Natural Resource Management

(Natural Resource Management)

* Activities that improve the health of a natural area or resource via natural habitat restoration, plant or endangered species rescue, eco system plans, native prairie restoration, etc.
  + Our Wildlife Rescue Project

1. Wildlife Management Ecosystem Consulting

(Technical Guidance)

* Any work that provides natural resource, environmental conservation or program related business, land management, and other expertise consultation, and/or written management recommendations, to cooperators, Chapters, partners, land owners and/or land managers. Examples include site visits for consulting on and writing ecosystem management plans including Wildlife Management Valuation site visits and education on wildlife management or other conservation actions that can be taken to increase the environmental quality of the property, and may also assist the landowner in updating the valuation of their property within the county tax system. There should be some sort of record of the site visits and conversations, not just two people talking about their property over coffee.

**Important:** Hours spent on your own property doing personal research, education, backyard bird watching, managing your own wildscapes, Wildlife Management Valuation activities, or other personal wildlife projects do NOT count towards approved volunteer service hours for any of the above opportunities – EXCEPT just those hours that are intended for, and are directly related to, producing, and publicly sharing results via that specific Opportunity’s definition.

**When entering hours in VMS for any of the approved Opportunities above, please follow these instructions:**

For the text box: “Describe your service or training”, please provide the area of specific activity as noted in the descriptions and detail lists shown with each Opportunity above, and your role with that. Make sure you include the location where the service was performed, even if at home doing field research or activity prep (ie presentation development) or follow up for the activity performed elsewhere. If the activity has one or more Sponsoring organizations, note those as well. Do not leave this blank and do not enter generic or non-descriptive information. It’s not a lot of information needed, just pertinent information and important in the Hours Approval process. Add what is necessary to make sure the Who, What, When and Where aspects are all covered.

For Volunteer and Field Research projects, you can add travel time to your volunteer hours if appropriate. But NOT on Administrative or AT items.