



Call for Presenters!

Put it on your calendar now as we prepare for our 21st Texas Master Naturalist Program Annual Meeting, an event to gather, learn and celebrate another year of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. We'll be hosting this year's meeting at the Omni Houston Westside the weekend of October 16th - 18th, 2020 with plenty of activities both pre & post event! Join us for a long weekend of adventures in one of the most ecologically diverse major urban areas in the country.

Covering approximately 600 square miles and with a population over 2.3 million residents, Houston is the definition of an urban environment. However, Houston is also situated at the confluence of ten ecoregions: seven land-based and three water-based. The forests, prairies, savannahs, bayous, bottomlands, coastlines and ocean around the Gulf-Houston Region contribute to the incredible biodiversity of the city, where residents have embraced the opportunities to get outside and give back. This year's Annual Meeting is being co-hosted by eight local Texas Master Naturalist chapters, each as eager as the next to show off their piece of Texas and reverse the perception that their city is void of life or just an urban jungle.

As a workshop presenter at the Annual Meeting, 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.



Advanced Training Sessions Requirements

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/2020-annual-meeting/>.

Advanced Training (AT) Sessions include training on a specific skill, 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. AT Sessions should aim to provide participants with new skills to apply in their area of service or in the topic area you are teaching. These could 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 chapters in their communities. They are also typically hands-on Sessions scheduled to run concurrently with other conference events and are open to all meeting registrants on a walk-in basis. Training sessions range from 1- to 4-hour blocks. Typical attendance at sessions can range from 10 to 50 registrants.

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday May 31st**. 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.

Proposal Themes

All training workshops relevant to the Texas Master Naturalist mission will be considered. Presentations will be generally categorized with the following theme areas to help build session tracks in the final agenda:

Abiotic Environment (Geology, Weather, etc.)

Chapter Management & Solutions

Chapter Project Highlight

Citizen Science

Conservation Initiatives

Ecological Concepts/Regions

Fauna-General

Interpretation/Communication

Partnership Highlight, Volunteer Project

Recruiting

Plants/Flora

Social Media

Texas Water Resources

Other

Examples of previous years' TMN Annual Meeting agendas with workshop and session titles and descriptions can be found on the TMN Annual Meeting archives website, <http://txmn.org/past-meetings/>.

Information Required in the Proposal System:

- **Presentation Title** (make it catchy!) *Note: the title you provide in your proposal will be the title displayed on the Full Agenda—double check for any errors before you submit!
- **Presentation Abstract** – A short description (3-5 sentences or ~100 words) describing the session, what volunteers will learn, what they will need to wear or bring with them. (This information will be used directly in our Full Agenda)
- **Presentation Theme** – see above
- **Duration** – Length of time (in hours) requested for presentation
- **Presentation Environment** – Indoor classroom/ Outdoors
- **Maximum Class Size** – 12 - 60 or more; needed to gauge room requirements
- **Technology Needs** for presentation and participants where applicable



Proposal Evaluation and Notice of Decision

All training proposals will be considered and evaluated on timeliness of the subject, importance of the training to a broad range of TMN volunteers and their further contribution to our program's mission. Applicants will be notified whether their proposals are able to be accepted or not. All presenters will also need to register for the conference once registration is open – www.txmn.org/2020-annual-meeting .

About the Texas Master Naturalist Program

The Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer program is sponsored statewide by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The program has the mission *to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas*. The program currently supports 12,000+ volunteers in 48 local chapters across the state. Last year, TMN volunteers provided over 400,000 hours of service. For more information visit our statewide website at: <http://www.txmn.org>

Any additional questions about the Texas Master Naturalist 21st Annual Meeting or the Program in general can be directed to Michelle Haggerty (mmhaggerty@tamu.edu) or Mary Pearl Meuth (mpmeuth@tamu.edu).