Texas Master Naturalist, Lost Pines Chapter

Nancy Rabensburg, Basic Training Coordinator

519 Tahitian Dr., Bastrop, Texas 78602

October 15, 2019

Dear Texas Master Naturalist Program Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Master Naturalist™ program. The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist™ (“TMN”) program is 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 our communities.

The Lost Pines Master Naturalist (LPMN) Basic Training Course provides participants with essential information and strategies to restore and conserve our indigenous species and habitats. Throughout the training classes, experts will cover topics about our natural resources and lead hands-on field trips to local ecosystems. After graduation, we are all about volunteering in the local community. Texas Master Naturalist™ trainees will have a wide variety of approved local projects to choose from. Projects may include habitat restoration and maintenance, bio-surveys, state park programs, school curriculum development, monitoring activities, interpretive or education presentations, or projects of your own design.

Lost Pines Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist™ has been approved as a Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Provider for Texas by the Texas Education Agency. This means our Basic and Advanced Training qualify for CPE credits.

To graduate:

* Students must complete a minimum of 40 hours of training. *A maximum of two missed classes can be made up by viewing and summarizing a video of the class by December 31, 2019.*

Additional requirements to become certified:

* 40 hours minimum of volunteer service on approved projects by December 31, 2019 (we encourage trainees to begin volunteer service simultaneously with the beginning of training classes, if possible)
* 8 hours of advanced training in approved classes of your choice (outside the Basic Training offered) by December 31, 2019.

The fee for this training is $130.00, which covers the cost of the TMN Training Manual, class materials and handouts, mileage for speakers, venue rental and fees, background security checks, 2019 chapter dues and graduation expenses.

TMN policy, and the policy of TMN’s major sponsors (Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife) require that volunteers undergo a background check at least every three years. All screenings are conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife and report results are maintained confidentially by them. Background checks are conducted once an applicant is accepted and entered into the chapter’s Volunteer Management System.

Attached is the preliminary class schedule for 2019. Please note that class dates and locations are subject to change based on unforeseen circumstances, such as speaker availability, adverse weather conditions, or other scheduling conflicts. **Training classes will begin with an orientation on January 12, 2019, and will culminate with a commencement celebration on June 8, 2019. Classes will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday evenings (approximately 3 per month), plus 10 Saturday classes and/or field trips.**

**The application deadline is December 15, 2018. Please complete the enclosed Application for Basic Training Program and Release for media and forward, along with a check made payable to LPMN for $130.00 to: Nancy Rabensburg 519 Tahitian Dr. Bastrop, TX 78602. Note Payment of the class fee may be made on our website via PayPal at the following link,** [**https://txmn.org.lostpines/training/basic-training-with-application-form/**](https://txmn.org.lostpines/training/basic-training-with-application-form/)**.**

To ensure that all interested individuals have an opportunity to get into the class, please carefully consider your schedule and time commitment required to complete the training program. **Class size is limited to 25 participants in order to provide a quality experience for each student.** Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Email notification of enrollment status will be provided for each application received.

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Master Naturalist™ program. We look forward to your participation in this educational and beneficial volunteer program. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Rabensburg, Basic Training Coordinator: email: training@lostpinesmaternaturalist.org

Sincerely,

Marcia Karr Nancy Rabensburg

President Training Director

Lost Pines Chapter Lost Pines Chapter

Texas Master Naturalist Texas Master Naturalist

Enclosures: Application for Basic Training Program

 2019 Preliminary Course Schedule

 Media Release form