

## Volunteer Service Requirements

Excerpt from Article VI Chapter Management and Operations Protocols, December 2017  
<https://txmn.org/files/2018/03/Chapter-Management-and-Operations-Protocols-for-2018.pdf>

Volunteer projects may be a series of short experiences or they may involve the long-term efforts of a volunteer team. The opportunity to do meaningful and interesting work is the reward of the Texas Master Naturalist volunteer. There are few constraints for Texas Master Naturalist volunteer projects whether Chapter initiated, or not, as long as they fall within the TMN Mission and are approved by the Chapter.

Participants in volunteer service projects are encouraged (when safety considerations allow) to identify themselves as part of the TMN Program either by wearing a Chapter name badge, identifying TMN clothing, or by displaying signage identifying the TMN project and/or participants as Members of the TMN.

The pre-approval of volunteer service projects and opportunities is important to:

- Ensure that volunteers are covered by the available State Program accident and liability insurance when applicable (see FAQs)
- Provide a list of service projects for volunteers of the Chapter
- Ensure the mission and goals of the organization and the partners are met
- Provide for and encourage participation in a broad spectrum of opportunities

The following are points for the Chapter's Volunteer Service Coordinator and/or the Volunteer Service Committee to consider in approving and issuing a code or title for a project opportunity:

A. Is the proposed service project representative of the goals, practices and teachings of the Texas Master Naturalist Program?

B. How does the project address pressing naturalist or natural resource management issue need?

C. What is the scope of the project in terms of when it would need to be conducted, where, estimated time needed to complete or maintain per month, how many Members would be needed, etc.?

D. Is the project within the Chapter's defined service area or ecological area? Consideration by the Chapter may be given to projects outside the Chapter's service area and ecological training if the project's service is compatible with the Mission, goals and training of the Chapter and the TMN Program.

E. How does the project allow the Chapter to focus and/or create visibility, identity and/or recruitment for the Chapter? Does the opportunity allow the Member(s) to represent the TMN Program at all times?

F. How can the project's impact on the community and our natural resources be measured?

G. Does the opportunity include fundraising for an organization other than the Chapter or the TMN Program which is outside of the TMN Mission?

H. Does the opportunity include lobbying which is not acceptable under the TMN Mission?

I. Is the opportunity a "good opportunity" for the Chapter and Program to be associated with?