



Tierra Grande Chapter Texas Master Naturalist

PO Box 133, Alpine, Texas 79831

June 1, 2021

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Texas Master Naturalist. Please read all of this information and the attached application forms thoroughly. Incomplete applications, missing signatures, missing checks, etc. could result in not being accepted. Make sure you read and understand the requirements outlined below.

The mission and purpose of Tierra Grande and Texas Master Naturalist 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 in their communities and region.** The Tierra Grande Chapter serves Presidio, Jeff Davis and Brewster counties.

Sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, our program features training in wildlife and natural resource management. Instruction is led by area experts with a specific focus on ecosystems of the Chihuahuan Desert region in Texas. With locally trained volunteers, our chapter provides many hours of service; working with adults and children in nearby state & federal parks, the Nature Conservancy, the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute (CDRI), local schools, communities and with other area organizations.

To certify as a Texas Master Naturalist you must complete:

- **40 hours of combined classroom and field instruction.**
- **Eight hours of approved advanced training in an area of your interest.**
- **40 hours of approved volunteer service.**

Members of the class of 2021 have until December 31, 2022 to complete requirements. Accumulation of volunteer and advanced training hours begins at the time of the Kick-Off meeting on September 11, 2021.

The curriculum includes the following subjects and more:

Introduction to the TMN program
Texas Naturalists in History
Ecological Concepts
Urban Systems

Plants
Ornithology
Entomology
Ichthyology

Ecosystems Concepts
Geology
Soils
Weather and Climate
The Nature of Naming

Mammalogy
Archeology
Forest Ecology
Aquatic Ecology
Range Land Ecology

The training dates follow. Attendance at all events is required. By the end of this training, you will have satisfied the 40 hours of classroom and field instruction toward full certification.

2021 Tentative Training Dates

- September 11 - 12** - Davis Mountains State Park
- September 24 -26** - Balmorhea State Park
- October 8 - 10** - Davis Mtn. or Independence Creek Preserve
- October 22 - 24** - Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area
- November 12 - 14** - Big Bend Ranch State Park

As COVID -19 protocols are evolving, we will request you comply with the restrictions we may establish in order to meet the requirements mandated at each training location. Please check training dates carefully. If an unforeseeable event prevents you from attending any part of classroom or field instruction, please notify the training committee. Members who have not completed all sessions will not receive a certificate of completion until all requirements are met.

Friday sessions can begin as early as 5 PM. Please make arrangements at your workplace to allow for an early afternoon arrival at the training locations. Prior to each weekend, you will receive a detailed schedule including information about what to bring, etc.

Your \$250 application fee covers overnight accommodations at the Nature Conservancy Preserve, Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area and Big Bend Ranch State Park. Accommodations at Balmorhea will be your responsibility. The fee covers most meals, snacks and the fee for a background check. Our volunteers are frequently called on to work with children, thus the background check is required.

Please complete the attached application, background check form and mail with the application fee to the address provided. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. If you are not accepted into the class of 2021, your application fee will be returned in a timely manner.

Additionally, all applicants are invited and encouraged to attend the Botany and Bird hike scheduled on June 26 at 9:00 am at Davis Mountain State Park (Amphitheater) and the Chapter meeting scheduled for 10:15 - 11:00 at the same location.

In order to provide a quality learning and teaching environment, class size will be limited.

All applications must be in by July 15, 2021.

Thank you for your interest.

This is an exciting program and its on-going success will depend on your completing the training and becoming a Certified Texas Master Naturalist.

Sincerely,

Denis Foley, Training Committee Chair

Tierra Grande Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist