

## **Spring 2023 Application - North Texas Master Naturalist**

*NTMN Mission: Providing education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas to all communities of North Texas in an inclusive and equitable manner.*

Thank you for your interest in joining the North Texas Master Naturalist Class of 2023! We are thrilled that you are interested in learning about the ecosystems of North Texas, and that you are ready to help to preserve, beautify and bring more equitable access to our parks and natural areas.

The application deadline is October 31, 2022.

The North Texas Master Naturalist program features weekly class sessions with expert guest lecturers, homework, and hands-on field experience. Each class will be based on one or two chapters of the textbook Texas Master Naturalist (available to you as part of the class in a print or digital edition). You'll participate throughout with a diverse group of volunteers who share your passion for learning about the natural world.

### **Course structure and requirements**

- Thirteen three-hour class sessions. These sessions will meet every Tuesday evening from January 31, 2023 through May 2, 2023. No class on March 14, 2023. Classes will be held both in-person and online.
- Homework (a graded, online test based on the textbook) of 1-2 hours/week
- 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training to be completed by January 31, 2024.
- 10-15 hours participation in a Class Project between February 7<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. (These hours count toward the 40 annual volunteer hours listed above.)
- Three three-hour field trips

Class size is limited, and applications will go through a rigorous review and selection process. Applicants should demonstrate:

- a commitment to the stewardship of our natural resources
- a willingness and ability to contribute time to volunteer service
- previous experience with some form of community volunteer work
- skills that would strengthen our chapter (teaching, writing, presenting, organizing, leading nature walks, clearing brush, web design, etc.)

Please note, this form cannot be saved in progress. Depending on how much detail you choose to share, it can take over 30 minutes to complete. We suggest that you first review the pdf version of the application to help you prepare for the questions. Go to [ntmn.org](http://ntmn.org) and click on "How to Join and Class Schedule" to find the link. Applicants will be notified of decisions by December 17, 2022.

If you have questions about the Master Naturalist program or any aspect of the application process, please email Sue Matkin at [newclass@ntmn.org](mailto:newclass@ntmn.org).

## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION – NTMN CLASS OF 2023

Your first name:

Your last name:

E-mail address:

Street/Mailing address:

City/TX:

Zip Code:

Preferred Phone Number:

Alternate Phone Number:

Emergency Contact Information:

Please list the name and best contact information for Tuesday evenings and weekends. This should be someone who is not in class with you.

**County:** Please enter your county of residence. The North Texas chapter of Texas Master Naturalists serves primarily Dallas, Rockwall and Kaufman Counties. If you live outside these counties, please refer to the Texas Master Naturalist website to find a chapter more suited to your location.

- Dallas County
- Rockwall County
- Kaufman County
- Other

If outside the named 3 counties, please explain why you have chosen the North Texas Chapter. (As mentioned above, there are many chapters serving the north Texas area.) If within the 3 named counties, please respond "n/a".

How did you hear about the NTMN program? Please be as specific as possible. (dropdown, friends, social media, flyers, community event, NTMN website, other) ?

Have you previously applied to the NTMN program?

Are you applying together with a family member or friends? If yes, please list their name(s).

Do you know anyone in the Master Naturalist program? If yes, please share their name and indicate if you are comfortable with us contacting them to discuss your candidacy.

## Section 1: Understanding the Requirements

By checking the boxes below, you are indicating that you have read and agree to the following statements. Begin by entering today's date. \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. **Classes every Tuesday night for 13 weeks.**

I will be available for the classes every Tuesday evening from January 31, 2023 through May 2, 2023. (No class March 14, 2023.) Classes are expected to be in person at Brookhaven Dallas College (six classes) and by zoom (seven classes). I understand that I will need access to a computer or tablet for the classes. I understand that other than one class which may be missed without penalty, I am required to attend all other scheduled classes in order to attain initial certification. Make-up classes are sometimes, but not always, available. I understand reading and homework assignments are to be completed between each class meeting and I will be asked to participate in a class volunteer project.

Read and Agree

### 2. **Three Required Field Trips**

I understand that I am required to attend three **three-hour** field trips, one in each category of Forest, Aquatics and Prairie, to attain initial certification. Field trips are usually scheduled on Saturdays but may also be scheduled on Sunday. Field trip locations will vary. Make-up field trips are sometimes, but not always, available. We will attempt to make available several choices of date for each field trip. But we cannot assure there will be sufficient slots available on your chosen field trip date.

Read and Agree

### 3. **Background Check, requiring disclosure of my Drivers License Number; Liability Waiver; Code of Ethics; and Standards of Conduct.**

I understand that membership in the Master Naturalist program is contingent upon passing a background check to better assure the safety of our youth and adults. Online forms for Background Check Authorization and Liability Waiver must be completed before class begins (links will be sent after acceptance; drivers license number is required to complete the online form). Volunteer service cannot commence until background check are completed. As a Master Naturalist, I also agree to the Code of Ethics and Standard of Conduct (<https://txmn.org/files/2013/04/TMN-Code-of-Ethics-updated-July-2015.pdf>) and (<https://txmn.org/files/2013/04/TMN-Standards-of-Conduct-updated-July-2015.pdf>). I also understand I must be 18 or older to participant in the Texas Master Naturalist program.

Read and Agree

### 4. **Volunteer Service and Advanced Training**

I understand that, in addition to classes and field trips I am required to complete 40 hours of approved volunteer service and 8 hours of approved advanced training by January 31, 2024, to attain initial certification. I also understand that I will be expected to accomplish a

portion (approximately 10-15 hours) of my volunteer service cooperating with other class members on a class project. Your class projects will be presented to the members at a monthly meeting of all North Texas Maser Naturalists. Each year, after initial certification, an additional 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training will be required to maintain certification. Dues (currently \$40) are required to maintain membership. I understand that I will need access to a computer and must be familiar with computer operations to log initial new class training, volunteer and advanced training hours.

Read and Agree

**5. Do you anticipate missing any classes due to prior commitments?**

Yes or No If yes, which one(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Class fee of \$200**

Upon acceptance in the class, I agree to pay the class fee of \$200 by PayPal, due by January 6, 2023. The class fee includes the membership dues for the initial year. There are partial scholarships available. Additional information about scholarships will be provided upon acceptance.

Read and Agree

**7. Will you be able to fulfill your 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training by January 31, 2024?**

Yes  No

If no, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2: Personal Interest and Motivation**

**Please limit answers to 2,000 or fewer characters including spaces for each section.**

Why are you interested in joining the North Texas Master Naturalists? What do you hope to gain from the experience?

What do you plan to give back to the chapter/community?

Why is now a good time for you to make this commitment?

What is your favorite flora, fauna, or rock and why?

What naturalist subject(s) are you most interested in learning about and why? (For example, trees, dragonflies, weather, geology, birds, etc)

### **Section 3: Skills, Education and Training**

Are you a hobbyist or learner in any subject related to the environment, preservation or conservation? If yes, please share details.

Tell us about skills/aspects of what you are currently engaged in that might apply to your volunteer service with NTMN.

Employment status:

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Retired
- Not currently employed outside home
- Full-time student
- Part-time student
- Other

Current (or most recent) place of employment, and job title:

What did you study in school? Describe any degrees or certifications you have if you would like.

Have you completed any community-based training relevant to the North Texas Master Naturalists program? (For example, Master Gardener, Master Composter, Stream Team, Water Quality, etc.)

Our large, dynamic chapter requires the enthusiastic participation of many volunteers. What specific skills do you already possess that you would be willing to share with our chapter?

- Accounting
- Archives
- Board position
- Coordinating and planning our annual New Member class
- Newsletters
- Outreach events coordination and planning
- Photography
- Program planning for monthly chapter meetings

- Project Leadership
- Record keeping
- Social media
- Special events planning
- Technology implementation or support
- Website maintenance
- Writing (grants, newsletter content)
- Don't know yet
- Other

What languages do you speak, read or write other than English? Would you describe your skills at a beginner, intermediate or fluent level?

Our chapter is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. We value the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our members as we work to engage all North Texans with our natural world. Please describe any experience, ideas, or perspectives you have with cultivating meaningful relationships among diverse groups or individuals in a community or workplace context.

**Section 3: Volunteer Experience**

Please describe your community volunteer experience and share information about skills or insights acquired in doing this work.

	Organization	Your Volunteer Role	Skills Acquired	Length of time you served in this volunteer role
1				
2				
3				

Have you done any volunteer work with North Texas Master Naturalists? With any other chapter of Master Naturalists? If yes, please describe.

Have you done any volunteer work with Texas Parks and Wildlife? Yes No  
Do you have a tpwd. samaritan/VMS account?

What type of volunteer work interests you most?

- Administration (Board or Committee work)
- Citizen Science or species monitoring
- Curriculum Development
- Docent at Nature Center
- Habitat restoration and preservation
- Herbarium
- Identification of species
- Leading outdoor walks and talks
- Plant rescue
- Public Speaking/Speakers Bureau
- Public Outreach events and presentations
- Removal of invasive species
- Teaching and educational activities
- Trail maintenance
- Wildlife rescue
- Don't know yet – looking to learn more about all the possible activities
- Other

#### **Section 4: Final details**

What other information about your interest, skills, and motivation you would like to share with the New Class Selection Committee?

Your first and last name as it should appear on your name badge, (if selected for upcoming class): \_\_\_\_\_

If you are accepted into the Class, you will receive a Chapter tee shirt. What size should we order for you? Drop down with sizes S to 3XXL