



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Denton County Government Center  
401 W. Hickory, Suite 112  
Denton, Texas 76201  
Phone: 940-349-2883 Fax: 940-349-2881

## Texas Master Naturalist - Elm Fork Chapter 2021 INITIAL TRAINING CLASS APPLICATION

Please type your responses. Mail your completed five-page application and a check payable to TMN-EFC for **\$150** to the AgriLife Extension Office c/o TMN-EFC 2021 Class at the above address **by April 30, 2021.**

**Please be advised, it is possible, due to circumstances beyond our control, the 2021 Initial Training Class may be held virtually.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name I prefer to be called

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address: Street / Apt / P O Box

\_\_\_\_\_  
City County State ZIP

Home phone: ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ cell ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ **Please check preferred.**

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Relationship

Phone

Are you employed? \_\_\_\_ full time \_\_\_\_ part time \_\_\_\_ retired

What is your current / previous profession? \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this class? \_\_\_\_\_

We appreciate your interest in the Texas Master Naturalist Program. Applicants will be contacted to acknowledge receipt of the application and again after the application is reviewed for approval.

You are invited to join us for monthly chapter meetings. Please check the website calendar for meeting dates, locations and presentation topics, and for other information on opportunities to stay connected with us.

**Website: [txmn.org/elmfork](http://txmn.org/elmfork)**

**Email: [training@efctmn.org](mailto:training@efctmn.org)**

## About Us

We are a volunteer organization. Elm Fork Chapter is one of approximately 40 Texas Master Naturalist chapters in the State. Our Chapter has approximately 200 members who provide volunteer service on multiple projects throughout Denton, Wise and Cooke counties. The following describes in general some of the things we do.

We **clear, build, maintain and lead hikes** on several **nature trails**, providing the area's children and adults with exposure to, and knowledge of, the many natural areas in our communities. In that effort, we are available to **teach people about birds, trees, plants, wildlife, prairies, wetlands** and various **habitats that we conserve and sustain** here in our region of North Texas. We **organize and participate in Citizen Science projects** that **monitor and report data** on the health of natural areas and their species. We **share our knowledge** gained through our training and continuing education to teach others, in classrooms as well as outdoor settings. And to **ensure the sustainability of our own organization**, our members apply their various talents in communications, technology support, creative arts, marketing and hospitality to help build a broader community of dedicated advocates of nature.

### Please tell us about you.

1. What aspects of nature interest you the most? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How do you like to experience nature? For example: camping, bird watching, nature walks, etc. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Tell us a little about your prior experience with volunteer organizations. If this is your first volunteer experience, what encouraged you to consider volunteering with Texas Master Naturalists? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What qualities and skills have you gained through your career and life experiences that you would be willing to share with others? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you aware of anything that would keep you from completing at least 60 hours of initial training, 40 hours of volunteer service and 8 hours of advanced training to meet certification requirements by **December 31, 2022**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What would you like to tell us about yourself related to the opportunity for training to become a certified Texas Master Naturalist and becoming a member of Elm Fork Chapter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Is there anything you would like to add that we haven't asked about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. In the event it is necessary to hold our class virtually, do you have the computer skills and audio/video equipment to participate? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**YES, I affirm that:**

- I am 18 years of age or older.
- I will be available for classes conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Tuesday beginning **August 17, 2021**, and continuing through **November 2, 2021**.
- I understand I am required to attend a minimum of 60 hours of Initial Training plus 8 hours Advanced Training and to complete 40 hours of acceptable volunteer service by **December 31, 2022**. In order to become certified. Otherwise, I will have to repeat the class at my expense.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

A TYPED OR SIGNED SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

**Goals of the Texas Master Naturalist Program**

To provide services to the community through public educational programs that promote understanding and conservation of our natural resources, that foster an appreciation of the diversity of our plant and animal species and promote stewardship and conservation of our natural environment; and that provide opportunities for Texas Master Naturalists to use and expand their knowledge and skills in ways that will benefit and interest the volunteers and promote the Texas Master Naturalist program.

**Volunteer Pledge**

I understand that in exchange for the training made possible through the Texas Master Naturalist program, I will volunteer at least forty (40) hours of my time to the Texas Master Naturalist program within one year and I will complete the eight (8) hours of advanced training. I understand that I will become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist when I complete both the training and volunteer work and record those hours as required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

A TYPED OR SIGNED SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

**Be sure to mail your Application, Volunteer Application Form  
and check for \$150.00 (payable to TMN-EFC) no later than April 30, 2021.**

**DELIVER OR MAIL TO:**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
TMN-EFC 2021 Class  
401 W Hickory, Suite 112  
Denton, Texas 76201

**Class size is limited to 24. Early submission of applications is encouraged. Applications received after the class is full will be placed on a waiting list for the current class.**

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, sex, religion, disability, age (must be 18 years of age or older), or national origin. Individuals who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in Extension sponsored programs are encouraged to contact the County Extension office to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

## Volunteer Application Form

And consent for criminal background history check authorization/waiver

To be completed by Extension program volunteers (EFNEP, BLT, etc.) and Master Volunteers only.  
4-H volunteers must register online via 4-H CONNECT or by completing the 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H2-1.056)

Please print:

1. APPLICANT'S FULL, LEGAL NAME

2. COUNTY

3. ADDRESS

4. CITY

ZIP

5. FIRST 5 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

6. DATE OF BIRTH

7. DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER AND STATE

8. GENDER (*circle one*) Male / Female

9. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity? Yes / No

MASTER NATURALIST  
10. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AREA

RACE (*circle one*) White / Black / Asian / American Indian / Alaskan Native / Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander

Please sign at the bottom of this page and complete the information on the bottom of page 5.

11. I hereby authorize veriFYI and/or its Service Provider and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service/ Texas Parks & Wildlife to request and receive any and all background information about or concerning me, including, but not limited to, my Criminal History, Driving Record, Employment History, Military Background, Civil Listings, Educational Background, Professional License from any Individual, Corporation, Partnership, Law Enforcement Agency, and other entities including my Present and Past Employers. I authorize the Texas AgriLife Extension Service or any of its components to make reference checks relating to my volunteer service. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility as a volunteer/employee with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.
- The criminal history, as received from the reporting agencies, may include arrest and conviction data, as well as plea bargains and deferred adjudications and delinquent conduct committed as a juvenile. I understand that this information will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for an employment/ volunteer position with this organization. I also understand that as long as I remain an employee or volunteer here, the criminal history check may be repeated at any time. I understand that I will have an opportunity to review the criminal history as received by client/agency and a procedure is available for clarification, if I dispute the record as received. I also understand that the criminal history could contain information presumed to be expunged.
- I further release and discharge veriFYI and their Service Provider and all of their Subsidiaries, Affiliates, Officers, Employees, Contract Personnel, or Associates, from any and all claims and liability arising out of any request for information or records pursuant to this authorization and/or procurement of an investigative consumer report and understand that it may contain information about my character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living, whichever are applicable.
- I understand that I have the right to make written request within a reasonable period of time to veriFYI for additional information concerning the nature and scope of the investigation. I acknowledge that I have voluntarily provided the above information for employment/volunteer purposes, and I have carefully read and understand this authorization.

12. Date

13. Applicant's Signature

## Volunteer Application Form Instructions

1. Applicant's Printed Name – Complete with first name, middle name and last name.
2. County – Complete with the county name in which you are applying to be a volunteer.
3. Address – Complete with your current mailing address.
4. City and Zip code
5. Social Security Number – Complete with at least the **first five** digits of the social security number. The social security number is an individual descriptor that enables the system to complete a national criminal search of 47 jurisdictions.
6. Date of Birth – Complete with the month, day and year of birth.
7. Driver's License Number – Complete with current driver's license number and state. Although optional, this helps affirm your identity during a background check.
8. Gender – Complete by circling one of the options.
9. Race – Complete the race and ethnicity section by circling the answers that apply. This field is optional; however, it is very important in confirming accurate identity.
10. Volunteer Program Area – Complete with the program area you are volunteering for (e.g., Better Living for Texans, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, Master Wellness Volunteer).
11. Authorization Statement – State agencies screening volunteers are required by legislation to use the Volunteer Center of North Texas. The Volunteer Center contracts with VeriFYI. VeriFYI is a background verification software system that accesses multi-jurisdiction checks utilizing one of the largest private-sector criminal history databases in the nation (180 million records). All information received is held in confidence and not shared at the county level. Criminal record results are shredded when a volunteer's status is determined.
12. Date Completed
13. Applicant's Signature

### **Texas Master Naturalist Program Volunteer Waiver**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that as a participant in the Texas Master Naturalist volunteer program ("program") I hereby release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless the program and its sponsoring state agencies, their agents, employees, officers and successors, from and against the program and sponsoring state agencies, their successors, employees, or officers for all personal injuries (including death), known and unknown or damage to property caused by or arising out of activities performed under the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

### **Chapter Affiliation: Elm Fork Chapter**

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_