

Virginia Master Naturalists Course Information for Applicants Middle Peninsula Chapter – Winter-Spring 2022



Thank you for your interest in becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) with the Middle Peninsula Chapter. The VMN training class prepares you to become a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer. The VMN Program is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

Basic Training Course details are provided below:

- Classes run February through May 2022.
- Several field trips will be held on Saturdays during the course. Classroom sessions will be held virtually on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.
- Attendance at the classes and field trips is mandatory for graduation and VMN membership. Up to 3 classes may be missed. These are to be made up within 12 months of completion of basic training in one of the following ways: during the next training cycle if yearly, with another VMN chapter, or by making special arrangements with approval from the Training Committee Chair. However, if more classes are missed, accommodations can be made for events beyond your control.
- Attendees are expected to perform at least 2 hours homework and/or reading prior to each class.
- It is mandatory that trainees have an email address and internet access, since program communications and volunteer hour reporting are done in this manner.
- All attendees will be assigned a mentor who is a current Certified Master Naturalist in the Middle Peninsula Chapter to provide guidance and support throughout the program and beyond.
- Program is targeted toward adults, 18 or older. Youth, age 14-17, may apply under specific conditions.
- Class size is limited to 20 trainees.
- Course fee of \$175 covers basic training and course materials and background check.
- **Requirements for graduation** (in addition to the above): Maintain a field notebook, passing grade on the exam, at least 3 volunteer hours recorded on the Better Impact System, and a 5 minute presentation.
- After graduation, 40 completed volunteer hours and eight hours of continuing education are required for **certification**. Before graduation, all volunteer hours must be earned working with other Master Naturalists.
- All in-person activities will follow all state mandated COVID restrictions.

I, _____, have agreed to the dates schedule and the conditions stated above for the Cohort 3 Basic Training Course beginning February 2022.

• Signed: _____ Date: _____