

Virginia Master Naturalists Course Information for Applicants

Central Piedmont Chapter – Fall/Winter 2024



Thank you for your interest in becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) with the Central Piedmont 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.

***Please note:** VMN is a volunteer training and service-based program. If you do not intend to be an active volunteer and help to support our local natural resources through your volunteer service, then this class and organization are not for you.*

The basic training course covers the background knowledge and skills to prepare you for service as a VMN volunteer. This includes a wide range of topics in many areas relating to the natural sciences. Initial certification, as well as annual recertification, requires 8 hours of approved continuing education and 40 hours of approved volunteer service within a year following completion of your basic training course. You can complete your volunteer service in any of four key areas: citizen science, stewardship, education and outreach, and chapter administration.

Basic Training Course details are provided below:

- Classes run September 4, 2024 – December 11, 2024 on Wednesday from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 14 Classes meet at the Longwood University Environmental Education Center (LUEEC), Farmville, VA 23901
- 5 field trips will be held on Saturday during the course, from approximately 9:00a – 12:00 p.m.
- Attendance at the 14 classes and 5 field trips is mandatory for graduation and VMN membership. Up to 2 classes (or 1 class and 1 field trip) 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.
- It is highly recommended that trainees have an email address and internet access, since program communications and volunteer hour reporting are usually done in this manner.
- Program is targeted toward adults, 18 or older. Youth, age 14-17, may apply under specific conditions. Youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for all classroom and field instruction as required by the VMN Volunteer Policy Handbook.
- Class size is limited to 24 trainees.
- Course fee of \$125.00 covers basic training and course materials for each adult trainee or household. Employees of our state sponsoring agencies may enroll with a course fee of \$100. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available. To request a scholarship, attach a letter to your application stating your need and the portion of the course fee that you can pay.

Complete your Online Application and submit by August 5, 2024. Bring your payment for the Basic Training Course to the first class made payable to CPVMN.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Cumberland Extension Office at 804-492-4390 during the business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. TDD number 1—800-828-1120.

All applicants will be notified by email of their selection status.

Questions? Contact JoAnn Jones at joajonz1@gmail.com, or call 434-547-9180.