

Virginia from space





Welcome, Virginia Master Naturalists!

Introductory Class Objectives

- Describe what a Master Naturalist volunteer is
- Identify and communicate the mission and goals of the Master Naturalist program and what makes it unique from other volunteer programs in Virginia
- Identify and communicate the requirements and responsibilities of a Virginia Master Naturalist
- Be familiar with the expected standards of conduct for Master Naturalists and the applicable laws and ethical issues relating to wildlife educators and researchers
- Understand the role of learning as a lifelong pursuit
- Understand the many possible options for volunteer service projects, including citizen science, education/interpretation, and stewardship projects

Just what is this Virginia Master Naturalist program, anyway?

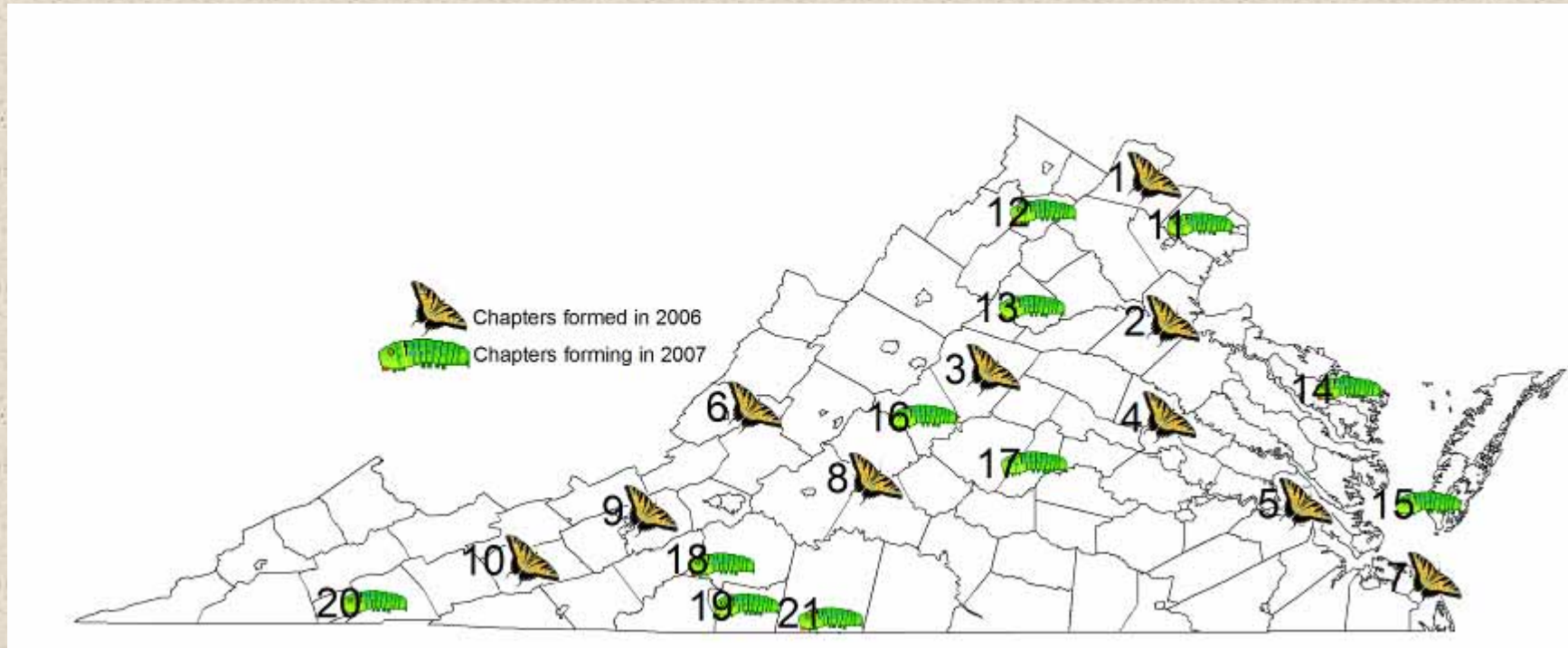


The Virginia Master Naturalist Program

A well-informed corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

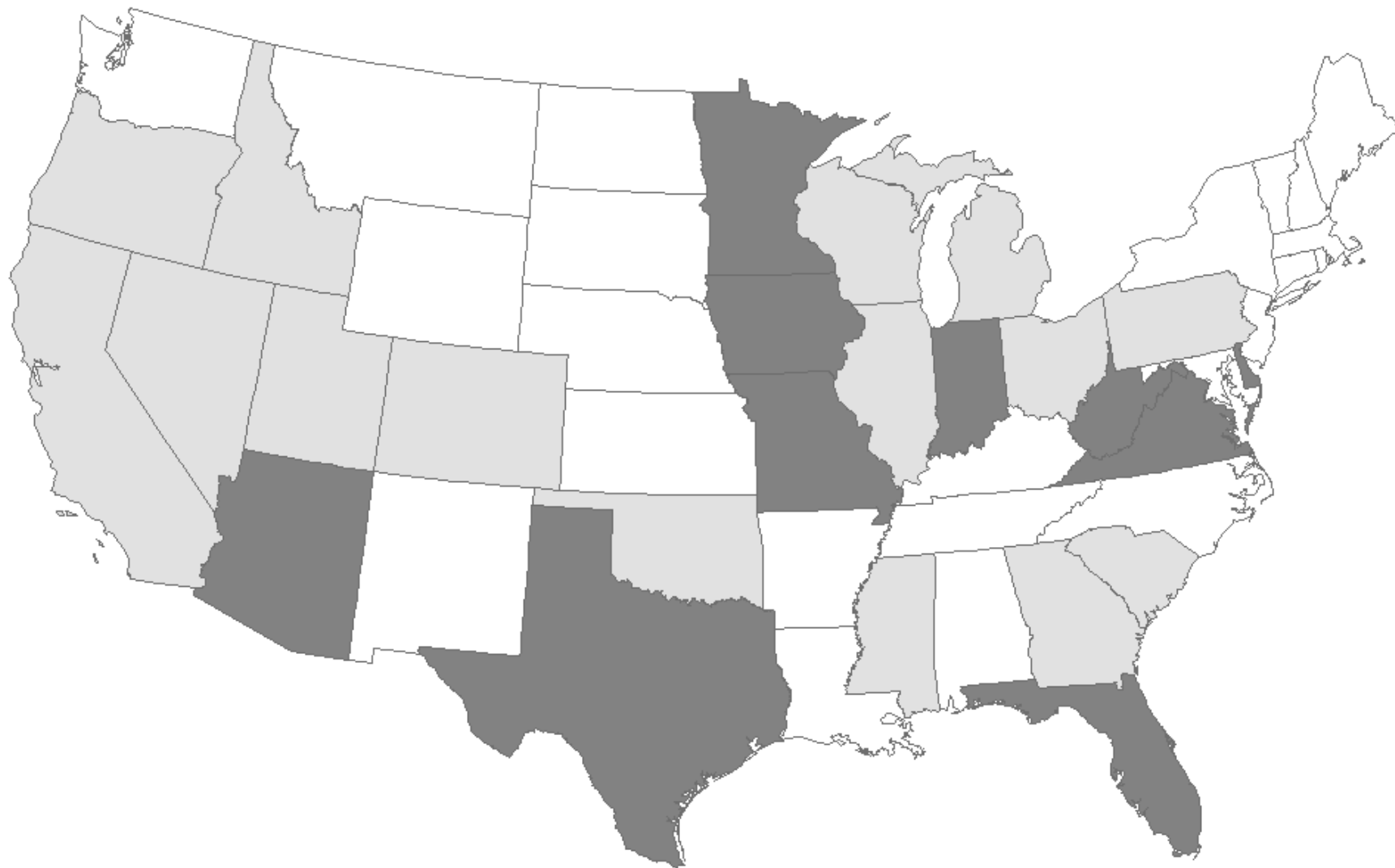


VMN Chapters



- 21 chapters around the state
- 10 started in 2006, 11 in 2007

A National Master Naturalist Movement



- States developing programs (in development, on local level, or in pilot phase)
- States with programs (statewide, active programs)



VMN Sponsors

Sponsored by 5 agencies:

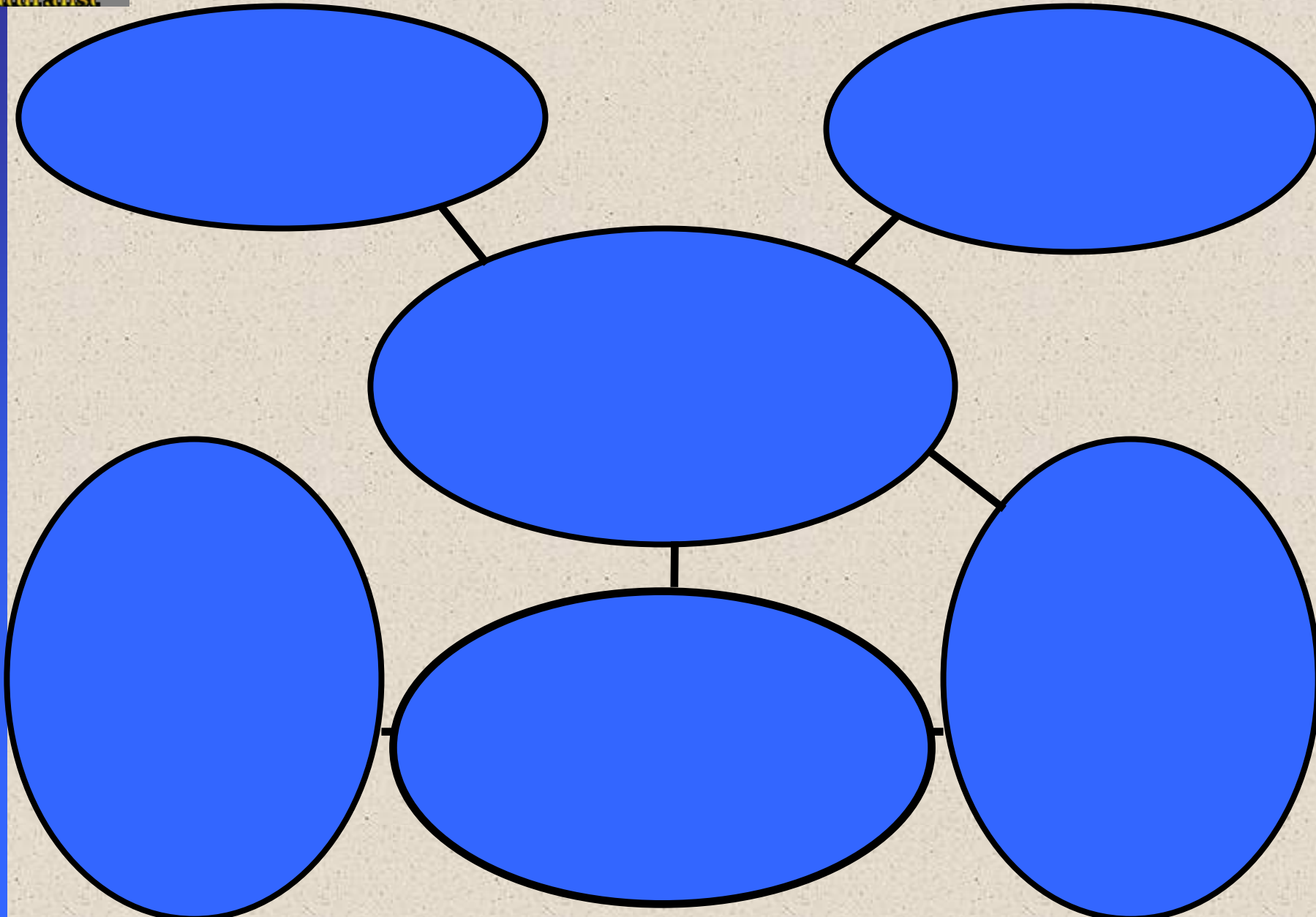


Also supported by:





Program Structure



Program Structure

- Master Naturalists are part of a local team, or “chapter” that is volunteer-run.
- Participating in chapter governance, organization, and activities is an important part of being a Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer.
- Master Naturalists are also part of a larger statewide structure. They must adhere to statewide policies and keep records of their service to report back to the state (via the chapter’s record keeper).



Volunteers and chapter advisors meet together at the 2006 New Chapter Coordinators' Training



Certification Process

Basic Training

40 hours

Classroom and field experiences

Natural history, conservation and management, teaching and research skills

Led by local experts

+

Advanced Training

8 hours

Specialized topics that build on basic training

Required annually to maintain certification

+

Volunteer Service

40 hours

Education, citizen science, or stewardship

Required annually to maintain certification

=

Certified Virginia Master Naturalist



A Virginia Master Naturalist Knows...

