

**Virginia Master Naturalist Program
Daughter of the Stars Chapter
Volunteer Information and Course Application
Spring 2008**



Thank you for your interest in the Daughter of the Stars Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program. The Virginia Master Naturalist 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 fill in all information areas of this form. We treat all information as confidential and will not release it to third parties. The deadline for submitting applications is March 7, 2008.

The process for becoming a certified Virginia Master Naturalist typically takes 6 to 12 months. The first step is to complete this Chapter basic training course. The certification process is complete when the applicant has completed 40 hours of volunteer service in the Northwest Shenandoah Valley area and 8 more hours of advanced training. To maintain certification, a Master Naturalist must complete 8 hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service each year. **Note: You must attend all academic classes and field trips to receive certification. We realize that this is a significant commitment of time. Please review the course schedule at the end of this document to make sure you are able to meet this commitment. If you are not able to do so at this time, you are welcome to apply for a later course.**

GENERAL INFORMATION *(please print)*

Name:

Last	First	Middle Initial
Preferred Name:		

Mailing Address:

STREET	BOX,	ROUTE,	APT #
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
County or Independent City of Residence:			

Your Contact Information:

Phone (please indicate which phone number is preferred):	Home ()
	Mobile ()
	Business ()
E-mail:	

Emergency Contact Information:

Name	Phone
	Day () Evening ()

AREAS OF VOLUNTEER INTEREST (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Programming for Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Data Collection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Programming for Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian Buffer Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Area Visitor Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Agriculture Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Programming | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive Species Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Research | |

List any other volunteer interests in the space below:

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (Optional, for record keeping purposes only)

Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	Race: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> African American <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Racial
Date of Birth:	

INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

	Yes	No
DRIVING INFORMATION		
Do you have a current and valid driver's license? If yes, issued in the state of _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a current commercial driver's license (CDL)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you currently have the minimum vehicle insurance coverage as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(This information will be kept in a confidential manner and accessible only to authorized personnel. A "yes" answer does **not** automatically exclude you from becoming a registered volunteer.)

Have you ever had any criminal convictions related to:	Yes	No
a. alcohol or drug abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. child abuse or neglect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. spousal abuse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. elder abuse or neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes	No
Have you ever been convicted of any violation(s) of law?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If volunteering for a position that requires the operation of a vehicle, have you been convicted of any moving traffic violations within the last 5 years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If "yes" to any of the above, please describe.

I understand that records and criminal background or reference checks may be conducted on me at any time during the application process or during volunteer service for the Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

Signature, Volunteer

Date

CLASS ATTENDANCE/REFUND POLICY

Please review the training schedule on page 5. The Spring 2008 Master Naturalist training begins Wednesday, March 26, 2008.

To become a certified Virginia Master Naturalist, a trainee must comply with the state requirements regarding attendance at the Chapter's training program. Specifically, to become a Virginia Master Naturalist Member of our Chapter, and be eligible for certification, a trainee must attend and participate in all of the training classes and field work scheduled as a part of the basic training program.

If a trainee is absent from a session, or from a substantial part of a multi-topic session, the trainee may make up the missed class or topic by attending an appropriate substitute session within 12 months of the conclusion of the training program in which the trainee enrolled. The substitute session may be either:

- The corresponding session in the next training program offered by this Chapter, or
- A pre-approved training session that address equivalent objectives relevant to the Chapter's service area.

IMPORTANT: After attending the first class, the tuition fee will not be refunded.

Minimum Attendance: Please review the class schedule. Trainees who miss more than 2 academic classes and 1 field trip will be dropped from the class roster without a refund.

The Chapter Board of Directors may waive this policy for family emergencies or other hardships.

I understand the class attendance/refund policy.

Signature, Applicant

Date

The training course fee is \$125 to be paid with this application. Please make your check or money order payable to: VMN - DotS Chapter. The deadline for submitting applications is March 7, 2008.

Scholarships: A limited number of partial and full scholarships are available. To apply for a scholarship, please return this application with a letter summarizing why you are seeking a scholarship and how you plan to serve this Chapter as a volunteer.

Your \$125 will be returned if we are unable to enroll you in the Spring 2008 training course. Class size is limited to 20 trainees.

Mail or hand deliver this application and your fee to:

Virginia Naturalist Program
Daughter of the Stars Chapter
c/o Virginia Cooperative Extension
Warren County Office
Warren County Government Center
220 N. Commerce Ave. – Suite 500
Front Royal, VA 22630

Office Hours: 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday

Phone Number: 540-635-4549

Directions: Call office or go to:
<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/view.cfm?webname=warren>

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. **An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer**

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Matthew Yancey, Rockingham County at 540/564-3080/TDD during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. The TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

**Daughter of the Stars – Virginia Master Naturalist
Spring Training Class Schedule**



Wednesday Classes: 6:00-9:00 PM.

Blandy Experimental Farm
400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce VA 22620
Directions: <http://www.virginia.edu/blandy>

Saturday Classes: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Various locations

	Date	Session
Wednesday	3/26/08	Class 1: Intro to VA Master Naturalist Program Basic Biology/Ecology
Saturday <i>Blandy</i>	3/29/08	Class 2: Naturalists & Citizen Science Climate & Weather
Wednesday	4/2/08	Class 3: Journaling & Citizen Science Practice
Saturday <i>Blandy</i>	4/5/08	Class 4: AM: Land Use & VA Biogeography, Physiographic Regions PM: Geology & Soils
Wednesday	4/9/08	Class 5: Classification Systems and Botany (w/fungi & lichens)
Saturday <i>Blandy and Calmes Neck</i>	4/12/08	Class 6: AM: Dendrology Field Trip: Dendrology & Botany
Wednesday	4/16/08	Class 7: Ornithology
Saturday	4/19/08	No Class
Wednesday	4/23/08	Class 8: Mammalogy
Saturday <i>George Washington National Forest</i>	4/26/08	Class 9: Field Trip: Mammals & Birds
Wednesday	4/30/08	Class 10: Forest Ecology
Saturday	5/3/08	Trainees Should Hold This Date For Make Up Class/Rain Date
Wednesday	5/7/08	Class 11: Entomology
Saturday <i>Site To Be Determined</i>	5/10/08	Class 12: Field Trip: Forest Ecology & Management
Wednesday	5/14/08	Class 13: Herpetology & Wetland Ecology
Saturday <i>Andy Guest State Park</i>	5/17/08	Class 14: Field Trip Ichthyology & Shenandoah River Ecology
Wednesday	5/21/08	Class 15: Education & Interpretation
Saturday	5/24/08	Memorial Day Weekend – No Class
Wednesday	5/28/08	Trainees Should Hold This Date For Make Up Class/Rain Date
Saturday <i>Blandy</i>	5/31/08	Class 16: Citizen Science Project Presentation Wrap-up Exercise and Graduation