# Virginia Master Naturalist logo

# Proposal Form for Volunteer Activities

All VMN volunteer activities must be approved by the local chapter before volunteers begin participating. This form collects the information needed for chapter leaders to make a decision about the activity, to advertise it to volunteers, and to document it as a service opportunity in the VMN online volunteer management system.

## Contact Information

**Submitter:** Who is submitting this activity proposal? **Name:** Lori Chamberlin **Email:** lori.chamberlin@dof.virginia.gov

**Chapter Lead:** Who will be the point of contact for this activity within the VMN chapter?
**Name:**       **Email:**

**External Lead:** If this activity is led by another organization, who is the primary point of contact for this activity within that organization? If there are additional external contacts for the activity, please include them as well.
**Name(s):** Lori Chamberlin **Organization(s):** VDOF
**Email(s):** lori.chamberlin@dof.virginia.gov **Phone Number(s):** 804-418-0205

## Activity Information

**Activity Name:** Beech Leaf Disease Surveys

**Purpose:** How will this activity contribute to natural resource education or conservation?
Beech Leaf Disease is an emerging disease in Virginia. Monitoring the spread of the disease is important information for researchers that are investigating causal agents and treatment options. This project will help the Virginia Department of Forestry survey more forestland for beech leaf disease and gather more information about the health of our forests.

**Service Type:** Within which of the 4 VMN service types does this activity best fit? Some activities may cross over service types, but please choose the one best primary type.

**Description:** What will volunteers do as part of this activity?
Volunteers should participate in a beech leaf disease webinar (or watch the recording). The date of this webinar will be announced at a later date. After learning about beech leaf disease, volunteers will conduct surveys on public land where beech trees are present. Survey data should be submitted via an online survey form <https://arcg.is/1r0jXW1>.

**Location:** Where will this activity take place?
Any public land in Virginia where beech trees are present. Beech trees are commonly found in shaded forests with moist, well-drained soil.

**Time Frame:** Is this project ongoing for the foreseeable future or does it have a planned completion date? When will this activity take place, and what is the time commitment for the volunteer?
The training webinar will occur in June 2025. Surveys for beech leaf disease should be done in late summer and early fall (July through September). This is when symptoms of the disease are most apparent.

**Safety Hazards and Protocols:** What hazards might the volunteers encounter and what safety protocols need to be followed?
Trails may be rough in some areas so wear good hiking shoes.

**Youth Supervision:** Will the VMN volunteers have sole supervision of youth, meaning that no parent, teacher, or other individual will be there to maintain responsibility for the youth? If so, the volunteers may need additional training and screening to stay in compliance with VCE volunteer policies.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** If applicable, describe how this activity will engage underrepresented populations and be relevant to diversity and inclusion efforts.

## Volunteer Information

**Training and Experience:** What prior experience, skills, or training must the volunteers have? If there is optional or mandatory training offered as part of this activity, please describe that here as well.
Watch the Beech Leaf Disease training webinar, date announced at a later date.

**Resources:** What resources will the volunteers need to do the activity (for example, tools, supplies, access to software)? Which of these resources must the volunteers provide? Which will be provided to them? By whom?
Binoculars are helpful to view the canopy of beech trees, but must be provided by the volunteer

**Benefits:** How will volunteers benefit from participation in this activity?
Volunteers will learn more about beech leaf disease and may enjoy hiking in a public park while conducting surveys.

## Documentation

This information will be used in the volunteer opportunity listing within the VMN volunteer management system (Better Impact). We recommend that chapters paste the Description, To Participate, and Additional Information text into the Pre-Signup Description field in Better Impact and add links there to any related files, including this completed activity form. The Post-Signup Description may be pasted into the Post-Signup Description field.

**Description:** Provide the basic description you wish all volunteers to be able to see for this activity within the VMN volunteer management system.
Beech leaf disease is an emerging disease in Virginia. Monitoring the spread of the disease is important information for researchers that are investigating causal agents and treatment options. This project will help the Virginia Department of Forestry survey more land for beech leaf disease and gather more information about the health of our forests. Volunteers will attend a training and then survey public land for beech leaf disease. All survey data will be submitted through an online survey form.

**To Participate In This Activity:** If volunteers wish to participate, what should they do?
Volunteers should attend or watch the recording of the Beech Leaf Disease training webinar. After becoming familiar with beech leaf disease and how to detect symptoms, volunteers will conduct surveys on public land where beech trees are present. Beech trees are commonly found in wooded areas with moist, well-drained soil. Volunteers should report survey results via the online survey form (link coming in June 2025). Submit data even if you didn’t find symptoms of beech leaf disease- negative data is still helpful!

**Additional Information:** List links to any websites or documents related to this activity. Attach files as needed.
Beech Leaf Disease Training Webinar: [https://video.vt.edu/media/Beech+Leaf+Disease+Survey+Project+with+DOF/1\_ffi8tm71](https://video.vt.edu/media/Beech%2BLeaf%2BDisease%2BSurvey%2BProject%2Bwith%2BDOF/1_ffi8tm71)

Beech Leaf Disease Survey Form: <https://arcg.is/1r0jXW1>

**Post-Signup Description:** Provide any additional information you wish volunteers to see after they sign up for this activity in the VMN volunteer management system.

## Internal Chapter Section

Chapter leaders may use this section to document approvals, record comments, indicate the Category and Activity to be used within Better Impact, etc.