# 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:** Wavyleaf Grass Surveys

**Purpose:** How will this activity contribute to natural resource education or conservation?
The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) is committed to slowing the spread of wavyleaf grass, an invasive species that aggressively outcompetes native plants in our forests. Knowing where wavyleaf populations are growing is vital information for this effort. DOF needs more eyes on the ground to help detect wavyleaf so that treatment can be coordinated.

**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 watch DOF’s wavyleaf video and then survey public land for wavyleaf infestations. If found, volunteers should report wavyleaf detection through iNaturalist.

**Location:** Where will this activity take place?
Any public land in Virginia. Wavyleaf tends to grow in shaded, wooded areas. Wavyleaf is already established in much of central and northern Virginia, so surveys in those areas are not as critical. Surveys in areas where wavyleaf has not already been confirmed are the most helpful. See [Virginia’s Wavyleaf Dashboard](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1bea7abce39c4f0a99953ae8a140328b?views=View) for a current map of known wavyleaf locations, and then focus surveying in areas where wavyleaf *has not already been documented*.

**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?
These surveys should be done in the spring and summer. Once wavyleaf grass has set seed, we recommend staying away from it! The seeds are very sticky and could easily hitchhike on clothing. Check your boots before you leave the site!

**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. Multiple other hazards may be encountered.  Review the “Weather and Environmental Hazards” and Contact with Plants and Wildlife” sections of the Safety and Risk Management for Virginia Master Naturalist Volunteers publication ([https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/pubs\_ext\_vt\_edu/en/CNRE/CNRE-124/CNRE-124.html](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pubs.ext.vt.edu%2Fcontent%2Fpubs_ext_vt_edu%2Fen%2FCNRE%2FCNRE-124%2FCNRE-124.html&data=05%7C02%7Cmprysby%40vt.edu%7Ced04e6ca1fb94ba539f308dd71420577%7C6095688410ad40fa863d4f32c1e3a37a%7C0%7C0%7C638791250550428152%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lIthajmge3jt8P7YsmMVBRN6duH5JK2JqGGI7xFIKZk%3D&reserved=0)).

**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 DOF’s wavyleaf video to learn how to identify the plant: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-dAbT3mfv4>

It would also be helpful to watch this additional wavyleaf training: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwbe-DzYcYY&t=619s>

**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?
Download the free iNaturalist app to report wavyleaf infestations

**Benefits:** How will volunteers benefit from participation in this activity?
Volunteers will learn more about wavyleaf grass, one of Virginia’s newer invasive plants, 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.
Wavyleaf grass, a non-native invasive perennial species, was first found in Virginia in the early 2000’s within Shenandoah National Park and has continued to spread in the northern and central part of the state since then. Slowing the spread of wavyleaf grass remains a priority for the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF). Knowing where wavyleaf populations are growing is vital information for this effort. DOF needs more eyes on the ground to help detect wavyleaf so that treatment can be coordinated. For this project, volunteers will survey public land for wavyleaf grass and report detections through iNaturalist.

**To Participate In This Activity:** If volunteers wish to participate, what should they do?
Volunteers should watch DOF’s Wavyleaf video and a recorded wavyleaf webinar to become familiar with the plant. Then visit the [Virginia Wavyleaf Dashboard](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1bea7abce39c4f0a99953ae8a140328b?views=View) to learn about areas of known infestations. Volunteers are asked to survey areas where wavyleaf has not previously been reported. If wavyleaf is found, report it through iNaturalist.

**Additional Information:** List links to any websites or documents related to this activity. Attach files as needed.

DOF’s wavyleaf video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-dAbT3mfv4>

Wavyleaf webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwbe-DzYcYY&t=619s>

Virginia Wavyleaf Dashboard: [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1bea7abce39c4f0a99953ae8a140328b?views=View](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fexperience.arcgis.com%2Fexperience%2F1bea7abce39c4f0a99953ae8a140328b%3Fviews%3DView&data=05%7C02%7Cmprysby%40vt.edu%7C2e30a38743cf444c260808dd6d58edd0%7C6095688410ad40fa863d4f32c1e3a37a%7C0%7C0%7C638786951486387877%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1hgtw%2FkqbCnYwv0KJXy%2Bsx1OtCOD34Ces2zEefWLkFg%3D&reserved=0)

[iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org/)

**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.