



Texas Master Naturalist Program Temporary Training Policy Changes

2021 Certification and Recertification

We do not anticipate changing 2021 Certification Requirements. We can, however, utilize innovative ways to obtain required certification hours such as Virtual Volunteer Fair, TMN Tuesdays, etc.

Temporary Basic Training Guidelines for 2021

Timeframe: January 1 – December 31, 2021

Conditions: All basic training classes occurring in calendar year (CY) 2021. A class is defined as the individual training session(s) offered as part of a basic training course/series.

Temporary Policy: Basic training sessions can be recorded only if there is a required follow up live Q&A with/by the same speaker(s) who gave the recorded presentation.

All (40) planned basic training hours scheduled will be allowed to be completed in this manner. We encourage this method to be used minimally or only as needed. We also encourage that you collaborate with neighboring chapters regarding hosting basic training courses before resorting to this model.

Basic Training Field Sessions – Options to consider

Please discuss these options with your chapter leadership and new trainees to see where they are comfortable:

Small group meet-ups with physical distancing where possible with state/local health restrictions and audience comfort.

Individual at-home hands-on field sessions as possible (set time limits for basic training hours done at home).

Individual field sessions to local outdoors spaces (i.e. state parks or natural areas) with physical distancing where possible and state/local health restrictions and audience comfort (non-conditional for certification).

Virtual field sessions (State Office has 3 camera kits available to loan to chapters – contact Mary Pearl mpmeuth@tamu.edu to schedule).

Additional options must be reviewed by the State Office before they can be implemented within your chapter.

Basic Training Goals for 2021

The State Office is investigating a shared calendar for New Training Class Coordinators to see other chapters' training schedules very easily. This will only be visible to New Training Class Coordinators scheduling events. The goal is to encourage regional chapter collaboration for basic training classes for the subjects that allow collaboration. More information will be made known to New Training Class Coordinators as it becomes available.

Temporary Advanced Training Guidelines for 2021

Timeframe: January 1 – December 31, 2021

Conditions: Applies to all Texas Master Naturalists (not just new trainees)

Current 2020 Policy – Continued through 2021 Calendar Year

All eight (8) Advanced Training (AT) hours can be earned through LIVE virtual training sessions where there is a live speaker and open chat/Q&A for student-presenter interactions. This policy will continue through 2021 CY.

Temporary Policy: AT hours can be earned via pre-recorded sessions if there is a follow-up LIVE Q&A with the same speaker(s). Hours for both watching the recording and the live speaker interaction will count as AT.

Not Allowed: NO fully recorded videos with NO speaker interaction.

The goal is to allow group discussion with speakers where Q&A happens in a group setting or audience for group learning.

Exception to the Rule – State Office Offerings:

2020 Annual Meeting: Recorded sessions can be watched through April 2021 for AT hours.

TMN Tuesdays: Recorded sessions can be watched for AT hours through the 2021 CY.

Volunteer Service Guidelines for 2021

Volunteer service requirements are NOT changing for 2021.

