

T E X A S



## Texas Master Naturalist 2021 Annual Meeting COVID Policy

[www.txmn.org/2021-annual-meeting](http://www.txmn.org/2021-annual-meeting)

With the uncertainty surrounding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Master Naturalist Program remains committed to creating a valuable and engaging educational and networking experience for both our In-Person and Virtual attendees, while also keeping the health and safety of our In-Person meeting participants and Speakers at the center of our on-site event.

The Texas Master Naturalist Program maintains its commitment and responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of its members, conference attendees and the general population while still serving its mission. The Texas Master Naturalist Program is prepared to have the following health and safety measures in place to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus; however, under no circumstances is able to guarantee that you or a guest will not become infected with the virus while in attendance at our event(s):

### **Masks**

At this time, masks are currently required at all commercial entities in Dallas County. Please bring your own PPE gear. Masks will also be provided to all in-person registrants. TMN State Leadership team will be modeling best practices and will be wearing masks during the entirety of the event. We will follow all mandates issued by Dallas County and will share any updated County or State level guidance if policies change.

### **Social Distancing**

In-person events and sessions will have limited attendance capacities and meeting rooms will be set to allow for social distancing during sessions, keynotes, and meals. Please help us in providing your fellow attendees the social space for this event and utilizing the spaced seating in conference rooms, social gatherings and at meals.

### **Sanitizing Stations**

Hand sanitizer stations will be made available, and we will ensure regular sanitation in common areas.

### **Marriott Hotel "Taking Care of You" Clean & Safe Commitment**

The Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott is also committed to providing a clean and safe experience at their facility for all guests. They have increased the frequency of cleaning and

disinfecting, particularly in areas with high traffic including restrooms, and elevators as well as provided hand sanitizing stations. Staff members will wear face coverings and other PPE (e.g., gloves, etc.) based on the activities they are performing and as directed by their employer and the local authorities. Disinfectant wipes are available in guest rooms as well as upon request. Every guest room is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to your arrival. During your stay, the hotel will not provide housekeeping automatically every day. If you wish to receive daily refresh service by housekeeping staff, please let the guest services team know. Please review the Marriott Hotel's ["Taking Care of You"](#) page for more information.

### **Texas Master Naturalist Family**

We expect all our attendees to consider the health and well-being of their fellow attendees and adhere to this policy, practice good judgement, follow CDC guidelines, and comply with all other rules, regulations, and guidelines when traveling to the Annual Meeting. If you are sharing a room with a fellow naturalist with whom you do not already live and work daily, please take precautions to keep each other safe and healthy. You may even consider having an adequate COVID-19 test prior hotel check-in. Should you decide you need your own room there are plenty available up until October 1<sup>st</sup> after which our remaining room block will be released.

### **Contact Tracing**

Our in-person event registration and individual session agenda selections also serves as our program's contact tracing for the event. Should an attendee later test positive and notify the TMN State Office, we will notify all in-person attendees.

### **You can help do your part by being proactive in these weeks and days leading up to the event by:**

- Monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms in the weeks leading up to the event and act accordingly.
- Refrain from travel internationally or to highly impacted COVID-19 areas between now and the conference.
- Monitor your self-exposure to a person with a positive and confirmed case of COVID-19 and follow the CDC-recommended quarantine policies.
- Recognize that a face covering is highly recommended if you have not been fully vaccinated.
- Practicing social distancing in social gatherings and atmospheres.

If you choose to not participate as an In-Person Attendee at the Texas Master Naturalist Annual Meeting due to this updated policy, we are happy to transfer your registration over to the virtual conference. Contact Mary Pearl Meuth, [mpmeuth@tamu.edu](mailto:mpmeuth@tamu.edu), before October 1, 2021, with your registration modification request. We are unable to make refunds or modifications to event registrations or attendance type after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.