

TMN Presidents & Advisors Meeting - June 25, 2024

- Next meeting will be on July 9th and be a joint Presidents & Advisors Meeting and #TMN Tuesday – will handle some business before “Plastic Free July – A Project Highlight with John O’Connell and the Galveston Bay Chapter
- Meetings for rest of year
 - August 27
 - September 24
 - October 24
 - November 12 – joint TMN Presidents & Advisors Meeting and #TMN Tuesday
 - December 12 – joint TMN Presidents & Advisors Meeting and #TMN Tuesday
- TMN State Program Funding
 - \$250K annual cost
 - 3 Full-time employees + 3-5 part-time employees
 - Does not include Chapter Advisors
 - Large portion of funding from US Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program
 - Originate from excise tax on firearms and ammunition
 - Requires a 25% match
 - Match a very small portion from TMN volunteer hours
 - No actual \$ are received from TMN volunteer hours
 - \$0 from Annual meeting
 - Not able to keep up with the growth of the program
 - From 17 Chapters with 2 Full-time employees to 49 chapters with 3 Full-time employees
 - Need 5 Full-time employees to properly support existing Chapters and members
 - Had a moratorium on new Chapter formation during COVID but have 1-2 that have/are launching
 - Have begun to cut support for some projects to keep program running
 - Federal grant does not come close to covering all expenses
 - Some TMN projects and expenses are not eligible for this funding including:
 - Service & milestone pins
 - Deposits for annual meeting
 - Covering unmet costs for annual meeting, if any
 - Fundraising
 - Sponsorships to reduce registration for annual meeting
 - Junior Master Naturalists or any other youth programs
 - Annual Meeting
 - Training event
 - Cost \$200-250K/year
 - If profit is generated, funds are used to pay for future meetings
 - Costs have doubled (food, A/V, event/functions space, etc.)
 - Annual meeting funds are over-allocated; can only cover deposit for 1-2 years out

- Sponsor agencies must cover any deficit not met by registration or registration price would have to increase
 - Silent Auction
 - 20% to Host Chapter(s)
 - 80% to Annual Meeting account which is used for travel grants for each chapter (\$100/chapter last year0)
- Chapter Canva Templates & Resources in development and will be housed on website
 - Brochure
 - Rack card
 - Certificate
 - Social media templates
 - Flyers
- Surveys
 - 42 of 49 chapters completed Training Class Survey
 - Speaker Master List Survey due June 30; to be housed and available on website
 - Still accepting errata/updates
- 2024 FALL training class information
 - If holding a Fall training class, update information via the basic information form at [2024 Basic Training Classes - Texas Master Naturalist Program \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu)
 - 16 Chapters (so far) have Fall trainings listed on the website
- 2024 Chapter Anniversaries
 - 6 month check in to find out what you have or will be doing to celebrate
 - Will also celebrate anniversaries at Annual Meeting
- 2024 Annual Meeting – October 24-27, 2024 – San Marcos
 - 1st week of July – launch agenda and registration pricing
 - 1st week of August – Early registration opens
 - Registration opening will be announced on ListServ and social media simultaneously
 - 5 page registration process
 - Registration Types
 - Full conference
 - 2 day – Friday and Saturday
 - 1 day – Friday or Saturday
 - Guest meals options
 - Review agenda prior to that date and identify Plan A and B options as sessions can fill up fast
 - System will not let you register for sessions that occur at the same time
 - August 31 – Early registration ends
 - September 15- Contests close
 - September 20 – in person registration closes

- October 8 – TMN Project Fair – need judges
- Presentation proposals – received a record number
 - 150 classroom sessions submitted
 - 32 field sessions submitted
- A number of pre-event field sessions available on Wednesday and Thursday
- Presidents Meeting/Luncheon on Thursday 11:30am-2pm – make sure you are registered for that session
- Agenda highlights were presented
- Lodging – Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Hotel Conference Center
 - No rooms available on Wednesday
 - Plenty available for Thursday-Sunday
- Silent Auction sponsored by Hays Chapter
 - Request for donation items
 - Drop off Thursday, October 24, 1-5pm
 - Will accept cash, check, and credit cards
- Contests and Awards
 - Chapter Advisor
 - Chapter Project Fair – need judges
 - Video Contest
 - Photo, Art, and Media – rules not posted on website yet but entries accepted from August 1-September 15
- Sponsorships
 - Many levels available
 - Used to help lower registration costs
- Vendors
 - Non-profit booths - \$150
 - Commercial booth - \$300
- Bulk Curriculum orders
 - Form available in mid-August
 - Can pick up books at Annual meeting
- Member awards & recognition
 - Will recognize registrants at Annual meeting
 - Be sure to have VMS updated by September 29
 - Milestones will be recognized that were earned between October 6, 2023 and September 29, 2024
- Chapter photos
 - Collect & send 10 photos representing your Chapter and members' work
 - .jpg files at full resolution (>1MB is best)
 - Must look good (not grainy or pixilated) at full size on computer to be included
- VMS Updates
 - Automatic log out shortened to 15 minutes

- Clyde will step down from VMS which will result in no trainings available in July or August
- Anticipate similar application entry process; updated application available in August
- New “onboarding” training modules for volunteers
- Opportunity signups for Chapters moving to an Opt In vs the Opt Out