Thank you for your interest in becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist with the Fairfax Chapter. We are a volunteer program with chapter members serving as officers and administering the program. Our mission is to train local residents to become certified master naturalist volunteers and to connect volunteers with citizen science, education, and stewardship service projects in parks and natural areas in Fairfax County.

The Basic Training Course, the first step towards initial certification, offers fun and interactive instruction on our local environment taught by recognized experts. Becoming certified typically takes 6 to 12 months. The first step is: attendance at all classes and field trips, final exam, service project presentation and final presentation, or makeups. Initial certification, as well as annual recertification, requires 8 hours of continuing education and 40 hours of volunteer service. Basic and continuing education are not only meant to be educational but to prepare participants to provide valuable volunteer service as master naturalists to the community.

Basic Training Course details are provided below:

- Classes run September 3, 2015 – December 3, 2015 on Thursdays from 7-10 p.m.
- Classes meet at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA.
- Field trips to Fairfax County natural areas will be on four Saturdays during the course from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Attendance at the 12 classes and 4 field trips is mandatory for certification. Up to three classes (or two classes and one field trip) may be made up within 12 months of completion of basic training (e.g., during the next training cycle, with another master naturalist chapter, or by making special arrangements with approval from the Training Committee Chair).
- Students need Internet access because course materials and announcements will be provided online.
- Program is targeted toward adults, 18 or older. Youth, age 16-17, may apply under specific conditions. \(^1\)
- Class size is limited to 20 trainees with a maximum of two youth.
- Course fee of $200 covers basic training and course materials. A limited number of need based scholarships are available. To request a scholarship, attach a letter to your application stating your need and the portion of the course fee that you can pay.

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\(^1\) Youth and a guardian must submit applications and course fees. Youth will only be accepted if guardian is also accepted. Each youth member must be accompanied at all trainings, field trips, chapter meetings and activities, and volunteer service by a guardian who is directly responsible for the youth.
Send your completed application and check for $200 made payable to Fairfax Master Naturalists to the address below. It must be postmarked by **August 1, 2015**.

Fairfax Master Naturalists Application  
c/o Jim McGlone  
Virginia Department of Forestry  
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 904  
Fairfax, VA 22035

Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should notify the Chapter Advisor, Jim McGlone at (703) 324-1480 (TDD number 1-800-828-1120) by the application deadline.

A Selection Committee reviews the applications using the following criteria: complete application with payment, interest in natural history and becoming a Master Naturalist, prior volunteer experience, natural history training or knowledge gained in other ways, desire to volunteer, leadership experience and time to commit. The acceptance criteria determine selection when there are more applications than spaces in the class. Prior applicants get additional points.

Checks will not be cashed unless an applicant is accepted; uncashed checks will be returned. All applicants will be notified by mid-August 2014 of their selection status. Questions? Send an email to FairfaxMasterNaturalists@gmail.com.
Fairfax Master Naturalists Application Form

Please type or print clearly and fill in all blanks, use none or not applicable rather than leave a blank
NOTE: The State of Virginia requires a hard copy Application Form with an original signature.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

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NAME preferred for FMN badge (e.g., nickname)

| First | Middle (optional) | Last |

MAILING ADDRESS

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COUNTY OR INDEPENDENT CITY OF RESIDENCE

ARE YOU AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE? If not, list birth month/year and the name of parent or guardian who is also applying to the program.

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR THE FAIRFAX MASTER NATURALISTS BASIC TRAINING COURSE IN THE PAST?

B. CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE NUMBER(S)

E-MAIL

EMERGENCY CONTACT

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Virginia Master Naturalist programs are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.
C. NATURAL HISTORY TRAINING AND EDUCATION

List training and education related to nature, naturalists, natural science, or the environment that you have completed. (e.g., any natural history education classes, workshops, and/or certifications). If none, describe some life experiences that have given you an understanding of natural history and/or the environment.

D. INTEREST

Describe why you want to be a Master Naturalist; describe some life experiences that have affected your appreciation of nature.

E. VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Include any current/past volunteer experience, naturalist related or other.

F. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Include any current/past volunteer or professional leadership experience, naturalist related or other.
G. VOLUNTEER AVAILABILITY (approximate number of hours typically available per month)

☐ <1 hr  ☐ 1-2 hrs  ☐ 3-5 hrs  ☐ 6-12 hrs  ☐ >12 hrs

What activities may affect your volunteer availability?

H. REFERENCES
Please provide 3 references, not related to you, who can verify or discuss your qualifications.

FIRST REFERENCE

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SECOND REFERENCE

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THIRD REFERENCE

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I. How did you hear about the Fairfax Master Naturalists?

Virginia Master Naturalist programs are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.
J. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
(Optional, for record keeping purposes only. This information will be kept in a confidential manner and accessible only to authorized personnel.)

Gender: □ Female  □ Male

Ethnicity: □ Hispanic or Latino  □ Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (select one or more):
□ White  □ Black or African American  □ American Indian or Alaskan Native  □ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  □ Asian

Birth Year:

K. DRIVING INFORMATION

Do you have a current and valid driver’s license? □ Yes □ No

If yes, issued in the state of

Do you have a current commercial driver’s license (CDL)? □ Yes □ No

Do you currently have the minimum vehicle insurance coverage as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia? □ Yes □ No

L. BACKGROUND INFORMATION
(This information will be kept in a confidential manner and accessible only to authorized personnel. A “yes” answer does not automatically exclude you from becoming a registered volunteer.)

Have you ever had any criminal convictions related to:

a. alcohol or drug abuse? □ Yes □ No
b. child abuse or neglect? □ Yes □ No
c. spousal abuse? □ Yes □ No
d. elder abuse or neglect? □ Yes □ No

Have you ever been convicted of any violation(s) of law? □ Yes □ No

If volunteering for a position that requires the operation of a vehicle, have you been convicted of any moving traffic violations (note: does not include parking tickets) within the last 5 years? □ Yes □ No

If you answered “yes” to any of the above, please describe:

I understand that records and criminal background or reference checks may be conducted on me at any time during the application process or during volunteer service for the Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

Signature, Volunteer (and Guardian for youth applicant)  Date

Virginia Master Naturalist programs are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.
M. VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

I understand that I am a volunteer for the Virginia Master Naturalist Program and will receive no financial compensation or benefits for assistance rendered in any capacity.

I agree to abide by all policies and procedures of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program and its sponsoring agencies.

I understand that I am responsible for my personal injuries and illness while participating in this program, and that I will hold the program and all joint and sponsoring agencies harmless. I understand that my chapter adviser may file a claim for my injuries with the Virginia Division of Risk Management. If accepted, I understand that I or my insurance company may be fully or partially reimbursed. I understand that a claim filed with the Virginia Division of Risk Management does not guarantee acceptance or reimbursement.

I understand that the Virginia Master Naturalist Program is open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital and family status.

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<th>Signature, Volunteer (and Guardian for youth applicant)</th>
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<th>Signature, Chapter Advisor</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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N. MEDIA RELEASE

Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Master Naturalist Program periodically use photographs or video or audio footage or testimonials of program participants for local, regional, or state publicity or educational purposes. By my signature on this Application Form, I acknowledge receipt of this document and give permission for Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Master Naturalist Program to use such reproductions for educational and publicity purposes.

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The Virginia Master Naturalist Program is sponsored jointly by Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Forestry, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Virginia Master Naturalist programs are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.