



Virginia Master Naturalist
Program, Riverine Chapter

Master Naturalist Mission

The Virginia Master Naturalist program is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.



**Virginia Master
Naturalists**
Riverine Chapter

VMN Program Sponsors

- [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#)
- [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#)
- [Virginia Department of Environmental Quality](#)
- [Virginia Department of Forestry](#)
- [Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources](#)
- [Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Center for Coastal Resources Management](#)
- [Virginia Museum of Natural History](#)

First and foremost, we are a volunteer organization!

Certified members volunteer a minimum of 40
hours a year on chapter approved projects.



Riverine Training Class

Members volunteer in a wide range of projects



- Education and outreach
- Citizen science
- Stewardship
- Chapter administration

Education & Outreach Projects

- Speaking to groups
- Programs for children
- Booths at community fairs



Citizen Science Projects

- Water monitoring
- Collecting data on vernal pools
- Bluebird trail monitoring
- Bird counts
- Butterfly surveys
- Wildlife mapping



Stewardship Activities

- Oyster shell recycling*
- Invasive plant management in state and local parks
- Stream clean ups
- Tree planting

*VMN State award for stewardship project



Administration of Chapter is Entirely by Volunteers

- Board of Directors
- Committee chairs and committee members
- Administration of training program for new members



Becoming a Member

1. Read the Training Class Information and check out the Tip Sheet before filling out the application
2. Complete application package available at www.RiverineMN.org
3. Applications are due by October 15, 2023.
4. Be brief, but specific – we usually receive more applications than we can accept.
5. Fee for course is \$150, scholarships are available



Training Program Requirements

1. Attend 14 weeks of training classes
 - Thursday evenings 6:30-9:30 pm
 - January 11 - April 18, 2024
 - 8600 Dixon Powers Dr. (Henrico Coop. Ext.)
2. Complete at least 10 hours of field training
 - Mostly on Saturdays
3. Complete training assessments



Complete Certification as a VMN Volunteer

1. Complete all basic training requirements within one year (preferably by the end of April).
2. Volunteer a minimum of 40 hours each year on Riverine approved projects.
3. Complete 8 hours of continuing education each year.
4. Pay \$25 membership fee



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Some Considerations in Deciding Whether to Apply for the Program

- Do you have the time to attend all training classes & do 1-2 hrs of weekly homework?
- Can you attend field trips, which are usually on Saturdays? (you'll need several, and most people want to attend more)
- Do you have Internet to access class materials & use Zoom if weather cancels an in-person class?



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...More Considerations in Deciding Whether to Apply for the Program

- Do you have time to volunteer?
- Are you willing to keep track of your volunteer hours and record them on the online Better Impact site?



Thank you for your interest in the Virginia Master Naturalist Program!

- Virginia Master Naturalist State website: www.VirginiaMasterNaturalist.org
- Riverine Chapter website: www.RiverineMN.org
- For any questions about applications or training contact us at president@riverinemn.org



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