

## Virginia Master Naturalist Course Information for Applicants

Pocahontas Chapter



**Thank you for your interest in becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) with the Pocahontas Chapter.** The VMN training class prepares you to become a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer. The VMN Program is a statewide corps of volunteers dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

***Please note:** VMN is a volunteer training and service-based program. We seek applicants who will actively support our local natural resources through regular volunteer service.*

The basic training course covers the background knowledge and skills to prepare you for service as a VMN volunteer. This includes a wide range of topics in many areas relating to the natural sciences. Initial certification, as well as annual recertification, requires 8 hours of approved continuing education and 40 hours of approved volunteer service within a year following completion of your basic training course. You can complete your volunteer service in any combination of four key areas: citizen science, stewardship, education and outreach, and chapter administration.

### Basic Training Course Details

**Class Schedule.** Early January through late April on Tuesday evenings from 6-9 PM.

**Field Trip Schedule.** 5 field trips will be held on Saturdays from 9 AM-1 PM.

**Location.** Classes meet primarily at Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield County.

**Attendance Requirements.** Attendance at the 14 classes and at least 3 field trips is mandatory for graduation and VMN membership. A trainee may miss up to 2 classes and 2 of the 3 required field trips and still be eligible to take the final exam. However, the trainee must make up the missed classes and field trips within 12 months of completion of basic training in one of the following ways: during the next training cycle, with another VMN chapter, or by making special arrangements with approval from the Basic Training Committee.

**Training Materials and Communication.** It is necessary that trainees have an email address and Internet access, since training materials, program communications, and volunteer hour reporting are done electronically.

**Age Requirements.** Program is targeted toward adults, 18 or older. Youth, age 14-17, may apply under specific conditions consistent with State VMN policy. For further information, contact the Basic Training Committee at [pocahontasbtc@gmail.com](mailto:pocahontasbtc@gmail.com).

**Class Limit.** Class size is limited to 30 trainees.

**Cost.** The course fee of \$125.00 covers basic training and course materials. The fee is due after notification of acceptance to the program.

**Scholarship.** The Margaret “Margie” Dexter VMN Training Scholarship may be awarded annually to an individual who exemplifies a spirit of dedication to the mission and values of the VMN program. For further information, contact the Basic Training Committee at [pocahontasbtc@gmail.com](mailto:pocahontasbtc@gmail.com) .

## Application Submission

Each applicant must submit a completed Enrollment Agreement and Applicant Questionnaire. The Enrollment Agreement must be signed according to the instructions on page 3 of the Enrollment Agreement. Enrollment Agreements and Applicant Questionnaires **must be received by December 1**. Space is limited. Applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications may be submitted by either of the following methods:

1. Scanned documents may be sent to:  
[pocahontasbtc@gmail.com](mailto:pocahontasbtc@gmail.com)
2. Hard copies may be mailed to:  
Basic Training Committee  
c/o Pat DeZern  
7345 Longview Drive  
Richmond, VA 23225

*Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should notify the Chapter Advisor, Keith F. Morrison, Department of Conservation and Recreation, at (434) 572-4623 or TDD number 1-800-828-1120 by the application deadline.*

## Notification of Application Status

All applicants will be notified by email of their selection status. If selected, you will receive further instructions.

## Questions?

Send an email to [pocahontasbtc@gmail.com](mailto:pocahontasbtc@gmail.com) .