

Virginia Master Naturalists Course Information for Applicants Middle Peninsula Chapter – September 2026 – February 2027

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) with the Middle Peninsula Chapter. The VMN training class prepares you to become a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer. The VMN 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.



Basic Training Course details are provided below:

- Classes run September 2026 through February 2027.
- Several field trips will be held on Saturdays during the course. Classroom sessions will be held virtually on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.
- Attendance at the classes and field trips is mandatory for graduation and VMN membership. Classes that are missed must be made up prior to graduation by watching recordings of the classes and certifying in writing to the Training Committee Chair that the videos have been watched. Field days that are missed must be made up by attending the corresponding field day in the next Basic Training Course.
- **Requirements for graduation** (in addition to the above): Maintain a field notebook, passing grade on the exam, at least 3 volunteer hours recorded on the Better Impact System, and a 5-minute presentation.
- In addition to classes and field days 40 completed volunteer hours are required within 18 months of graduation. Before graduation, all volunteer hours must be earned working with other Master Naturalists.
- Attendees are expected to perform at least 2-3 hours homework and/or reading prior to each class.
- It is mandatory that trainees have an email address and internet access, since program communications and volunteer hour reporting are done in this manner.
- All attendees will be assigned a mentor who is a current Certified Master Naturalist in the Middle Peninsula Chapter to provide guidance and support throughout the program and beyond.
- Program is targeted toward adults, 18 or older. Youth, age 14-17, may apply under specific conditions.
- Class size is limited due to workforce and infrastructure limitations.
- Course fee of \$175 covers basic training and course materials and background check.

I, _____, have agreed to the dates schedule and the conditions stated above for the Cohort 6 Basic Training Course beginning September 2026.

- Signed: _____ Date: _____

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