ORMN PROJECTS

A. ORMN Volunteer Service Types

*Citizen Science (CS) Volunteer Service:*

o Includes monitoring, inventorying, collecting and reporting data to support research. The activities may be a part of a national effort, statewide project or be specific to a local organization.

o The data collected must be reported to an entity that utilizes or provides the data for research in order for the volunteer service to be approved.

O May be performed anywhere in Virginia.
o Includes time spent in the preparation and management of the volunteer service and in traveling to and from the volunteer service location.
o *Examples:* Project FeederWatch, NABA butterfly counts, Wildlife Mapping, FrogWatch, Virginia Working Landscapes.

*Education (ED) Volunteer Service:*

o Includes educating the public - kindergarten-age children to adults - about natural resources and their conservation.

o Includes interpretive programs or educational presentations to the public or accessible to the public, such as 4-H, garden clubs and public school groups, even If the educational event requires payment of a reasonable registration fee to the organization sponsoring the event.

o May be performed anywhere in Virginia.
o Includes time spent in the preparation and management of the volunteer service and in traveling to and from the volunteer service location.
o *Examples*: Envirothon, Working Woods Walk, staffing Byrd Visitors Center Information Desk, the Socrates Project, Rappahannock 4-H Day Camp Creeks and Critters.

*Stewardship (ST) Volunteer Service:*

o Includes hands-on service intended to improve habitat and other natural resources, such as removing invasive plants, restoring or installing native habitat, or service intended to improve the ability of the public to access these resources, such as building or maintaining trails.

o May be performed anywhere in Virginia, but stewardship service on private property does not qualify for ORMN credit unless it is performed in conjunction with an organization that promotes the conservation of natural resources.

o Includes time spent in the preparation and management of the volunteer service and in traveling to and from the volunteer service location.

o *Examples*: Old Rag Summit Restoration, Buck Hollow Invasive Plant Removal, Adopt an Outcrop, Thumb Run Habitat Restoration.

*Administration:*

o Does not need Projects Committee approval.
o Includes efforts spent on leading the chapter, such as being on ORMN

committees and the Board of Directors, mentoring, attending membership business meetings, and participating in any other activities that maintain and support the effectiveness of the chapter and the statewide program.

o Includes time spent in the preparation and management of administration activities and in traveling to and from the administration activity.

o No limit to the number of hours of Administration as long as the ORMN member volunteers with at least one CS, ED, or ST project.

All ORMN members are encouraged to participate in the administration activities of the chapter.

1. Current Approved Projects and Activities

Projects and activities that qualify for ORMN volunteer service credit are listed on the ORMN website (https://www.oldragmasternaturalists.org/) and the VMN-VMS reporting website (https://virginiamn.volunteersystem.org/).

1. To Propose New CS, ED, ST Volunteer Service Not Listed

Any CS, ED and ST volunteer service must be approved by the ORMN Projects Committee before an ORMN member can perform the volunteer service for credit. Projects implemented without this prior and specific approval are not considered Master Naturalist activities, service may not be reported for ORMN credit and the actions of the ORMN member will not be protected by the state’s liability coverage.

To request approval for volunteer service not listed on the ORMN website, an ORMN member should
o Review ORMN Project Approval Guidelines and Responsibilities of ORMN Project Contact/Activity Contacts

O Submit a completed ORMN Project Proposal Form to the ORMN Projects Committee.

If the proposed volunteer service is approved, it will be added to the ORMN website and the VMN-VMS website.

D. Loss of Volunteer Service Approval
The ORMN Projects Committee will remove volunteer service from the list of approved projects when

o There is a material change from the volunteer service as approved.
o If the ORMN contact requests it.
o If the project has been completed.
o If it was a one-time event not likely to be repeated in its original form.
o There may be other reasons that cause the Projects Committee to remove the volunteer service from “approved” status. Lack of volunteers does not automatically cause a the volunteer service to be removed from the list of approved projects.