**Virginia Master Naturalists Course Information for Applicants**

**Old Rag** Chapter – Spring 2020 Basic Training Class Information

**Thank you for your interest in becoming a Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) with the Old Rag 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.

***Please note****: VMN is a volunteer training and service-based program. If you do not intend to be an active volunteer and help to support our local natural resources through your volunteer service, then this class and organization are not for you.*

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 of four key areas: citizen science, stewardship, education and outreach, and chapter administration.

**Basic Training Course details are provided below:**

* Classes run in spring (dates tbd) on Tuesdays from 9AM – 1PM.
* Classes meet at VFW Hall in Culpeper, VA.
* Six field trips will be held generally on Saturday mornings during the course.
* Attendance at the 14 classes and 6 field trips is mandatory for graduation and VMN membership. Up to 2 classes and 1 field trip may be missed. These are to be made up within 12 months of completion of basic training in one of the following ways: during the next training cycle if yearly, with another VMN chapter, or by making special arrangements with approval from the Training Committee Chair.
* It is highly recommended that trainees have an email address and internet access, since program communications and volunteer hour reporting are usually done in this manner.
* Program is targeted toward adults, 18 or older. Youth, age 14-17, may apply under specific conditions.
* Class size is limited to 10-15 trainees.
* Course fee of $170 (due when selected) 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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Send your completed Applicant Questionnaire and signed Enrollment Agreement,  **postmarked by December 15, 2020,** to:

Old Rag Master Naturalists Application

 c/o Gail Swift

PO Box 526
Washington, VA 22747

OR

Email to:

oldragnaturalists@gmail.com

*Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should include this information with application.*

All applicants will be notified by email of their selection status.

Questions? Send an email to: oldragnaturalists@gmail.com