Potomac Valley

**Master Naturalist Program**

**Sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources**

**& Potomac Valley Audubon Society**

2020 APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT

The purpose of the Potomac Valley Master Naturalist (PVMN) program is to increase knowledge and appreciation of the natural world, promote effective environmental stewardship, create a pool of knowledgeable volunteers to educate others, and assist in natural history related programs and research. The program enhances people’s love of nature with research-based training and community-based volunteer service. To become a certified Master Naturalist, one must attend all 62 hours of Master Naturalist core and elective classes as well as complete 30 hours of volunteer service. Anyone over 16 years of age with an interest in natural history and volunteering is welcome to apply. Tuition is $300. A limited amount of scholarship funds are available. Both the application for enrollment and the scholarship application are to be postmarked by January 31, 2020. The scholarship application is available on the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org/masternat.

Each PVMN course is limited to 20 people. Make sure to fill out the application thoroughly and give us a sense of your interest in and commitment to completing the program, your interest in specific areas of natural history, and how you hope to serve the program through volunteer service. Submitting an application does not guarantee your acceptance. Please DO NOT send any money with your application. A member of PVMN will notify you that your application has been received. All applicants will be notified of their status by the end of February, and details about the program will be sent then.

Mail to: PVAS, P.O. Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV 25443, RE: PVMN Application. Be sure to make and keep a copy for yourself. **APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 31, 2020.**

**1) Name (Last, First, MI)**

**Mailing Address**

**City State Zip**

**County Home Phone ( )**

**Mobile** ( ) **Work** ( )

**Email Profession**

How did you hear about this program? \_\_ Friend/Colleague \_\_ PVAS Website \_\_ Newspaper \_\_ Other

**2) A goal of the PVMN program is to provide dedicated volunteers who will volunteer frequently as nature and natural history interpreters, citizen scientists, educators, and promoters of the PVMN program. The chart that follows represents many of the volunteer opportunities of PVMN. Place a check in each row to indicate areas in which you plan to actively volunteer. Elaborate in writing on your top three volunteer choices and note ways you might deepen and share your knowledge. (Attachment limit: 250 words.)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Interest Level** | | | |
| **Volunteer Opportunity** | **High** | **Medium** | **Low** | **None** |
| Environmental Programs: Children |  |  |  |  |
| Environmental Programs: Adults |  |  |  |  |
| Citizen Science Research |  |  |  |  |
| Nature Field Trips/Hikes |  |  |  |  |
| Land Management/Invasive Removal/  Trail Work |  |  |  |  |
| Committee Service |  |  |  |  |
| Clerical/Administrative Support |  |  |  |  |
| Volunteer Coordination |  |  |  |  |
| Staffing PVMN Booths at Local Events |  |  |  |  |
| Writing/Communications |  |  |  |  |
| Computer Support/Web Design |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |  |

**3) In what areas of natural history do you have a particular interest? Please circle your top three interests and elaborate in writing on how you plan to use them. (Attachment limit: 250 words.)**

Birds Mammals Reptiles/Amphibians Insects/Spiders

Soils Grasses Weeds/Wildflowers Ecology

Wetlands Terrestrial Habitats Aquatic Habitats Soils

Trees/Shrubs/Vines Grasses Habitat Improvement Geology

Astronomy Climate Recording/Preserving Classification/Identification

Natural History Interpretation Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4) Why are you interested in become a Master Naturalist? Attach a narrative responding to this question and providing any additional information you would like to share about yourself and your commitment to the program. (Attachment limit: 250 words.)**

**YES,** I am at least 16 years of age and I intend to complete *62 hours of training* and *30 hours of volunteer activity* to initially become certified as a West Virginia Master Naturalist. I realize that to remain a certified West Virginia Master Naturalist, I will be required to take 8 hours of training and participate in 16 hours of volunteer service each year. As a Master Naturalist, I give permission for my photograph to be used for publicity purposes by PVMN and PVAS.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| *The Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any service recipient, applicant, program staff, or the public on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, political affiliation, or religion. Further, PVAS acknowledges that it is unlawful to retaliate against any person who, or organization that, files a complaint about such discrimination. Updated 11/2017* |