

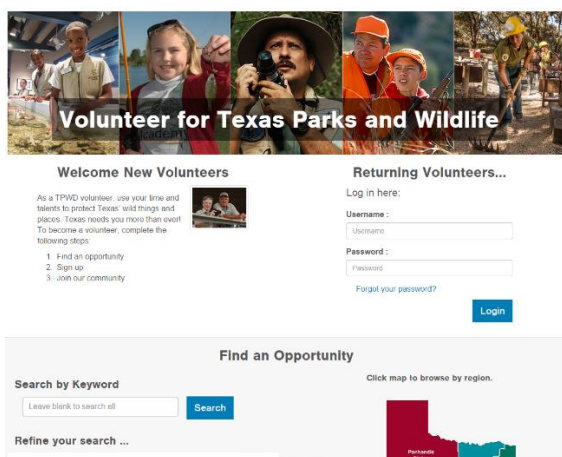
Registering as a TPWD Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer (VMS: Samaritan Volunteer Management System)

For new volunteers: you must register as a TPWD Texas Master Naturalist volunteer in order to

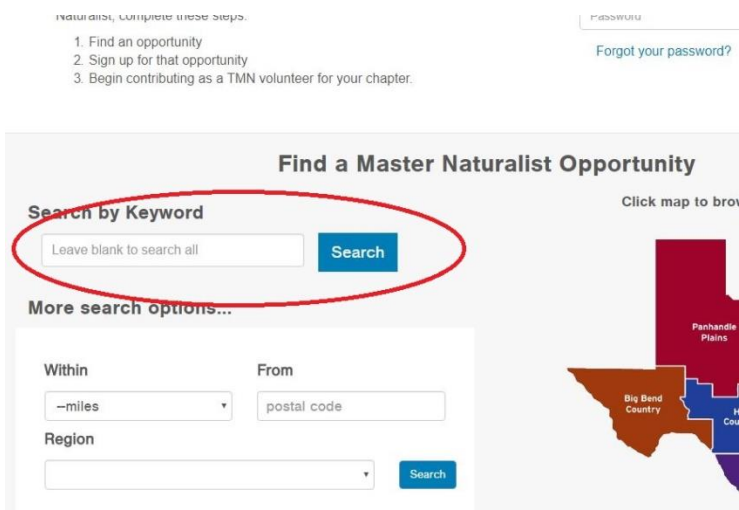
1. Attend Texas Master Naturalist volunteer training
2. Obtain a VMS user ID and password (which is necessary in order to report initial training, service, and advanced training hours).

In order to register as a volunteer, you must first go through the sign-up process in which you will select a chapter near you with which to be affiliated. The steps below will guide you through the process of signing up as a TPWD/TMN volunteer and creating a VMS user ID. Be aware that, in addition to other personal data, this involves agreeing to a criminal background check).

For volunteers who are not already registered with TPWD: In your browser, navigate to the Texas Master Naturalist Sign-Up page at txmn.org/apply (the current image on the page may be different).



IMPORTANT STEP: Scroll down to the bottom of the page shown above and click in the “Search by Keyword” box. If you already know the name of the chapter, enter the chapter name (for example: South Texas) and click on the “Search” button or if you do not know the name of the chapter, enter “Application” and click on the “Search” button.



This should display a sign-up dialog box for either the application for the chapter you entered or should display a list of Texas Master Naturalist chapters with the keyword “**Application**” in the title or the description. If you do not see the chapter you requested, check the spelling you used to ensure you have it correct or use the “**Application**” keyword to display a full list of chapters.

Your search returned the following results:

[Apply to the CenTex Chapter](#)

Overview //
Used for new/potential volunteers who want to connect with the chapter

Program: Central Texas Master Naturalist
Contact Person: CenTexMN
Contact Phone: (254) 760-4739
[Click here for details or to sign up](#)

[Apply to the HOTMN Chapter](#)

Overview //
Apply to volunteer with the Heart of Texas Master Naturalists - in the Waco/McLennan County area.

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of February, April, June, August, October & December at the fabulous Lake Waco Wetlands facility.

Program: Heart of Texas Master Naturalists
Contact Person: HOTMN
Contact Phone: (254) 265-4883
[Click here for details or to sign up](#)

[Not yet a TPWD volunteer?](#)

[Opportunity Search](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Log in](#)

[← Search again](#)

Find the entry for the chapter in which you are interested, then click on the blue “<Chapter Name> **Master Naturalist Application**” button at the top of that opportunity listing. This selection is crucial in that this is what determines the chapter to which you are applying for membership.

Master Naturalist volunteer training does NOT have to be done by the chapter to which you are applying, but you **must** coordinate your Master Naturalist Initial Training through the chapter of application. It is not uncommon for chapters to work together to accommodate the training of new members and their schedules. Your application chapter can provide you with details on signing up for training and provide you with their schedule.

When you click on the “<chapter name> Master Naturalist Application” button on the page shown on the previous page, the sign-up screen will display: The example below shows the results of selecting and clicking on the “Cypress Basin Master Naturalist Application” listing (the chapter name you see here will depend on what you entered in the search box):

Cypress Basin Master Naturalist Application

Overview //

Apply to volunteer with the Cypress Basin Master Naturalists - in the Harrison and Marion County area. Our Chapter meetings are on January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20...

Program: Cypress Basin Master Naturalists

Contact Person: Cypress Basin

Contact Phone:

[Click here for details or to sign up](#)

Click on the “Sign-Up” box and the login screen will display:

Volunteer Login

If you are already a Texas Master Naturalist volunteer, please log-in

User ID

Password

Log in

[Forgot your password?](#)

or

Apply to become a volunteer

Not yet a TPWD volunteer?

[Opportunity Search](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Log in](#)

Since you do not yet have a volunteer user ID with which to login, click on “**Apply to become a volunteer**” and the application forms will load. First there will be waivers to read and sign electronically. During the process, you will be asked for some demographic data, and finally, you will be prompted to enter your choice of a volunteer user ID and password (NOTE: your chapter may have provided you with a username they want you to use). The user ID you select must be unique in the system, so it may take a few tries to get a user ID that has not already been used by someone. Then select a password that you can easily remember; it should be at least 8 characters in length and include one or more numerals. You can change the password in the future as you see the need.

Waivers & Agreements

Background Check

In connection with the evaluation of my suitability for volunteer service, I give my consent for TPWD to obtain criminal history information related to my application for volunteer service. I understand that criminal history information includes any criminal conviction records for deferred adjudication, misdemeanor or felony offenses at age 17 or older. Any such information will be used solely for volunteer-related considerations and not for any other purpose.

I authorize, consent, and grant permission to any person or entity to release to TPWD or its agent(s) any and all information regarding my criminal history. I waive any and all claims I may have with respect to providing such information. I understand that TPWD and its agent(s) are not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in such reports. I release TPWD and its agent(s) from any and all liability, claims, and lawsuits with respect to the information obtained from any or all the sources used by TPWD and its agent(s).

I understand that this authorization is not an offer or acceptance of my volunteer service by TPWD and that any false or misleading information I have provided to TPWD may result in a refusal to accept or continue volunteer service. I also understand that this authorization is a continuing authorization and will remain valid until such time as I inform TPWD in writing that I revoke this authorization.

Certain volunteer positions require us to conduct a background check. Answering "no" to the questions below will not preclude you from serving in positions that do not require a background check.

I accept these terms Yes No

Media Waiver

I agree to be photographed or videotaped as a TPWD volunteer. I authorize my likeness to be edited, duplicated, re-used, and distributed in whole or in part for all informational and promotional purposes through any media worldwide.

I understand that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, its employees, subcontractors, and agents, have no obligation to air or use my likeness. Without any compensation to me, I authorize the rights granted herein. I understand that my appearance in photographs or videotapes confers upon me no rights of use, ownership, or copyright.

I release Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, its employees, subcontractors, and agents, from all liability for any

There will be a series of pages displayed for you to complete; the first few are waivers to which you must agree, the remainder are requesting information about you for the system, some of which is needed for TPWD to run a background check (TPWD requires a passed background check for all volunteers, of which Texas Master Naturalist is a part). Several items are required and usually marked with an asterisk; if they are not completed, the process will prompt you that the item must be completed. When you have finished, click on “**Submit**” and your selected volunteer user ID and password should be active. It may take a day or so to get you set up as a volunteer in the chapter, but your user ID is now active.

Important note: be sure to click on the **Submit button or your application is **not saved**.**