

## Virginia Master Naturalists Course Information for Applicants Historic Southside Chapter



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

To become a Certified Master Naturalist a trainees must : 1) Complete 40 hour basic training; 2) Pass post training assessment; 3) Complete a minimum of eight hours advanced training approved by the Historic Southside Chapter; and 4) Complete 40 hours of service approved by the Historic Southside Chapter. Upon graduation from the basic training program, volunteers become members of the local VMN Chapter. Each volunteer has until May 30 of the year following graduation from basic training to complete all the requirements to become a certified Master Naturalist. To maintain certification, volunteers must annually complete an additional eight hours of advanced training and forty hours of service.

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

- Classes run on alternate Tuesdays from January 29, 2019 through May 7 2019.
- Classes meet at VA Extension Office behind the IOW County Courthouse (17100 Monument Circle, Ste. B, Isle of Wight VA).
- Four field trips will be held on selected Saturdays during the course, from 9:30 AM through 12:30 AM. In addition there will be an end of the course assessment on a Saturday.
- Trainees may not miss more than two class sessions and missed sessions must be made up by attending approved classes within 3 three months of the end of the basic training program. Only one field trip can be missed and it must be made up. Snow day policy: If IOW County Schools are closed due to inclement weather, then class is cancelled and will be rescheduled. Check TV, radio or website: <http://www.iwcs.k12.va.us/>.
- 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 participate provided they are accompanied at training, field trips and volunteer service events by a parent or other adult who is directly responsible for them and is enrolled in the basic training program as well.
- Class size is limited to twenty trainees.
- Course fee of \$125 for individual or \$190 for families or couples covers basic training and course materials. Of the total course fee of \$125, \$65 goes to buy various nature books and field guides that will become the property of the individual trainee.

Send your completed Applicant Questionnaire and signed Enrollment Agreement, along with a check for made payable to Historic Southside Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalist to the address below. Application, Enrollment Agreement and Payment must be received by January 17, 2019.

Historic Southside Chapter Virginia Master Naturalists,  
Stephen Anderson, c/o Isle of Wight County Extension Office, 17100 Monument Circle Suite 8,  
Isle of Wight, VA 23430

*Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should notify the Chapter Advisor, Livvy Preisser at 757 365-6262 or (TDD number 1-800-828-1120) by the application deadline.*

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

Questions: Send an email to [stephen.p.anderson6@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.p.anderson6@gmail.com)