



Wildlife & Fisheries Specialist Academy

Purpose

The purpose of the Wildlife & Fisheries Specialist Academy is to provide advanced training whereby master volunteers can support or expand specific county educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The goal of the Wildlife & Fisheries Specialist Academy is not to produce “experts”, rather to identify Master Volunteers who have received highly specialized training to support specific natural resource-related programs or projects. Such projects may include educational projects such as training other master volunteers, clientele presentations, and/or applied research and demonstrations.

Leadership

Leadership and instruction for this course provided by Dr. Todd Sink, Dr. John Tomecek and Dr. Maureen Frank, with coordination provided by Mary Pearl Meuth.

Certification

After completing Specialist training, volunteers are asked to serve as a local county resource and contribute volunteer service by training other Master Volunteers and the public. Volunteers should document and report volunteer service hours specific to this program through their standard Volunteer Service Project reporting system. These hours may be applicable to be applied to required volunteer hours needed to maintain one’s master volunteer certification for the year.

Agenda

The Wildlife & Fisheries Specialist Academy will be held **Tuesday February 13th and Wednesday February 14th in College Station**. Classroom sessions will be held in the mornings at the **AgriLife Turf Research Facility** (3100 F&B Road, College Station, TX) and field based sessions in the afternoon. Materials and lunch will be provided each day.

Tuesday February 13th – Aquatic Ecosystem and Vegetation Management

8:30am – 5:00pm

Wednesday February 14th – Texas Native Wildlife and Habitat Management

9:00am – 5:00pm

Lodging

A lodging block has been reserved at the Vineyard. Rates are \$107/night. Transportation to/from the hotel to the classroom site is not provided.

Vineyard Court

<http://www.vineyardcourt.com/>

1500 George Bush Drive East

Call for Reservations: (979) 693-1220

Registration

Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Only 30 participant spots are guaranteed for this training. Registration will provide handouts and reference materials, meals (lunch Tuesday & Wednesday), coffee & snacks during the day and classroom instruction. Not included will be lodging. Registration will be **\$50 for both days** or **\$30 for single day admission**. To register, please email Kathrine Bradshaw kathrine.bradshaw@exchange.tamu.edu . And registration payment can be mailed to 534 John Kimbrough Blvd, 2258 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843. Dietary restrictions will be collected through registration.

Transportation

We rely on participants to provide their own transportation for travel to local field session sites. Participants should be prepared for outdoor activity and dressed appropriately. We recommend long pants and shoes with socks, long sleeved shirt, sunscreen, insect repellent, and any other personal items you require.

Expectations

Upon completing the course, you will be asked to begin natural resource outreach & training projects within your county to complete the Academy, and receive a special pin and official title of Master Volunteer – Wildlife & Fisheries Specialist. Assistance and/or coordination with a Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist for each project will be provided.

Still Have Questions?

For more information, contact Mary Pearl Meuth (mpmeuth@tamu.edu) 979-845-7294