

Texas Waters: Exploring Texas Water and Watersheds

1. What is the cost of the Texas Waters Specialist Training?

The training materials will be provided online/electronically. Volunteers may print the materials themselves at their own expense.

2. What is the time commitment to complete the Texas Waters Specialist training?

Any individual may pursue the Texas Waters Specialist designation. Texas Master Naturalists have specific requirements for reporting that don't apply to other participants. Self-study or small group study will take approximately 15-20 hours, depending on individual reading speed. For Texas Master Naturalists, this time cannot be counted as Advanced Training or TMN service hours. Group discussion is encouraged within local chapters. Using the challenge questions provided in the curriculum, these group discussions may be counted, if approved by the local chapter, for advanced training hours.

- › Webinars: We will produce four webinars on Texas Waters in the coming year. Each webinar will last approximately 1 hour and count toward your specialization. For Texas Master Naturalists, these may qualify as Advanced Training once reviewed and approved at the local TMN chapter level.
- › Texas Waters Day 2016: Those who attended can claim four additional hours of Advanced Training.

The total Advanced Training commitment for earning the Texas Waters Specialist training is 8 AT hours.

3. Does the self-study time spent in the curriculum count for Advanced Training hours?

Because of specific limitations in the type of activities that can be reported as qualifying for Advanced Training, we are unable to accept self-study of curriculum as Advanced Training or TMN Volunteer service for Texas Master Naturalists. Each chapter in the Texas Waters curriculum begins with "questions to consider" and ends with "challenge questions". Chapters are encouraged to lead small group study sessions utilizing these questions to drive interactive group learning. These hours in group discussions, if approved by the local chapter leadership, may count for advanced training. For all other participants, yes-- self-study time spent in the curriculum counts for Advanced Training hours.

4. In which type of activities can I participate and report towards my volunteer service hours as a Volunteer Water and Watershed Specialist?

Texas Waters focused educational activities (fairs, festivals, events, outreach), projects (habitat restoration, creek cleanups, aquifer recharge/karst feature flagging and clearing, etc.), or demonstrations (enviroscape, runoff models, runoff landscape features like dry

creekbeds, rain gardens, etc.). ALL Texas Waters Specialist volunteer service projects must be reviewed and approved at your local chapter level.

5. How will the Texas Waters Day change moving forward into the future? The Texas Waters Day 2016 was a half day event designed to kick off the new Texas Waters Specialist curriculum and Texas Waters Specialist program. Beginning in 2017, the Texas Waters Day will be the culminating event where Master Naturalists will participate in additional Advanced Training hours, complete all requirements, and will receive a Texas Waters Specialist pin. We hope these will be full day events.

6. Will there be an annual renewal requirement?

Yes, Texas Waters Specialists are expected to participate in at least one approved community service project contributing at least 10 hours of volunteer service in the area of water and watersheds in order to maintain their Texas Waters Specialist certification. Only those who do so, will be able to attend an exclusive Texas Waters field trip during the following year's Texas Waters Day.

7. I have more questions, who do I contact?

Please contact Jonnie Smith, Conservation Education manager, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Johnnie.smith@tpwd.texas.gov.