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

Basic Training Course details are provided below:

- Classes run February 5 – May 20 on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Classes meet at Ivy Creek Natural Area, 1780 Earlysville Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901.
- A total of 8 field trips will be held during the course: 4 on Wednesday afternoons, 1-4; 1 on a Wednesday, 6:30 – 9:30 pm; 1 on a Saturday, 9 – 12; 1 on a Saturday, 7 – 10 am; and 1 class & field trip combined on a Saturday, 9 - 4.
- Attendance at the 16 classes and at least 5 field trips is mandatory for graduation and VMN membership. Up to 2 classes may be missed, but must be made up by reasonable means.
- 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.
- Class size is limited to 24 trainees
- The program is targeted toward adults. Youth, age 14-17, may apply under specific conditions.*
- Course fee of $150 covers basic training and course materials. Do not send any money until you have been accepted. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available.*

HOW TO APPLY
Send your completed APPLICANT QUESTIONNAIRE and your signed ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT and have each of your three references send their COMPLETED REFERENCE FORM by email to rma.curriculum@gmail.com by Jan 3rd (with subject line “Application” or “Application Reference”), or by USPS mail to Rivanna Master Naturalists, PO Box 8284, Charlottesville, VA 22906, postmarked by Dec 30th (put “ATTN: Application” or “Application Reference “on left bottom side of envelope). All applicants will be notified by email of their status.

*Address questions on these points and any other questions you have to rma.curriculum@gmail.com
Individuals with disabilities desiring accommodations in the application process should notify the Chapter Advisor, Page Hutchinson, at 434-220-9037 by the deadline.