

2027 APPLICATION PREVIEW

Pima County Master Naturalist Program - January-May 2027 Training Course

Preview only. This document is provided so prospective applicants can review the questions before completing the online application. Required questions are marked with an asterisk (*).

We are pleased to announce the application for the Spring 2027 Pima Master Naturalist Chapter Training Course. We seek a new group of PCMN members willing to work toward shared goals of equity and inclusion in natural history programs; providing leadership as volunteers for our partner organizations, and cultivating an experience where everyone can thrive.

As of August 2026, the plan is to conduct this course online and in person for 18 weeks (Jan 6-May 5), regularly meeting Wednesday evenings from 5:30-8 and eight Saturday morning field labs.

If you are interested in participating in this journey, please complete this application by November 8th, 2026 at midnight Arizona time to be considered for a position in the Spring 2027 County MN Course, Cohort 11.

We will notify participants of their acceptance no later than December 4, 2025.

There is a non-refundable \$20 application fee required in order to be considered for the program. You will receive instructions on how to remit the fee once you submit this application form. The course will begin on Wednesday, January 6, 2027.

Based upon your responses below and a subsequent conversation with one of our team, we will let you know if you are selected to participate. Selection criteria include: desire to serve in a leadership capacity for the chapter and partners; openness to discussing equity and inclusion in natural history programming; availability to participate in the course; and your described reasons for taking the course.

Previous academic achievement, certification elsewhere, or volunteer service is not a driving factor in your selection - we seek to bring together a cohort of people who are open-minded and willing to work together on projects for our community.

If you are not selected for this cohort and wish to be considered for a future course, we will keep you on our mailing list. If you have any questions about the process, contact course-coordinator-pimamn@azmasternaturalist.org.

This application will also serve as your personnel file if you are selected. Please use the contact information you would like on file for the course. It is considered confidential information and will not be shared with anyone beyond the application team. If you are not selected for the course and do not choose to reapply in the future, your information will be deleted from our database.

Personal information

1. Email *

2. What is your first name? *

3. What is your last name?

4. What are your preferred pronouns? *

- She/her/hers
- He/him/his
- They/them
- Other

5. What is your mailing address? *

6. City, State, Zip *

7. What is your phone number? *

8. Please provide us with an emergency contact name and phone number *

9. If you are selected for the program, please let us know if you require any assistance with anything at all. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Experience

Please know that we ask these questions ONLY because we'd like to know more about you. If you have not had any prior training, that is not a problem. We are seeking applicants who want to join our chapter team as LEADERS. Leadership means learning more about environmental education and interpretation, designing and leading programs for our chapter and our partners, and serving on one or more of our Chapter Committees to bring these natural and cultural history experiences to all of our Pima County community.

10. Do you have any previous naturalist, stewardship, interpretation, or environmental education training? That is, training specifically related to natural history or natural resources or teaching others about them. The training need not have been taken in Arizona. *

- Yes
- No

11. If you have taken a naturalist, stewardship, interpretive, or environmental education training program, please tell us what that is and where was it taken? Please also describe any relevant personal or professional experience in this area.

12. Are you currently a docent or volunteer for an organization in Pima County? *

- Yes
- No

13. If yes, please tell us which organization(s).

14. Do you have experience in developing, leading, and evaluating programs and serving in leadership roles as a volunteer or previous paid position? *

- Yes
- No

15. If yes, please tell us what leadership experience you've had and whether or not you enjoyed it.

16. This course includes a primer on inclusivity, equity and inclusion in the outdoors, and how colonization has shaped environmental education and natural history in the United States. We seek to further explore how Master Naturalists might serve as ambassadors of change, pushing the current norms and understanding to call more people in. Please indicate your comfort level and/or experience with these, sometimes, deeply personal discussions. *

- 1 - Not at all comfortable
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - I am comfortable and ready to push for change

Online materials

We all want to be outdoors! However, much of the work we do with Community Partners and for our organization is on the COMPUTER. In order to effectively participate you must be willing and able to use software such as an online course management system, Volgistics (our volunteer hours tracking system), and the Google Suite of Products. You don't need to be an expert using these, we will help you get up to speed, but you must be willing to engage with information online, be patient and willing to learn more.

17. Do you have access internet and to a computer or a device that you can utilize to engage in online learning materials? Answering no may not exclude you from participation; we may be able to assist. *

- Yes
- No

18. Please rate your comfort level, willingness, and ability to learn and/or use online technology and systems, email for communication, and online document storage. *

- 1 - I only use paper
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Very comfortable/familiar with using technology and Google Docs

Commitment to the Master Naturalist Program

19. I am interested in the following type of opportunities (choose all that apply. If you are unsure, that is fine): *

- Taking a leadership role in supporting and organizing programs for the Chapter
- Taking a leadership role on a project with one of our community partners
- Education - leading interpretive walks, giving presentations, developing educational materials, etc.
- Citizen Science - participating in organized, crowd sourced, scientific research, etc.
- Stewardship - physical maintenance or care of the land, etc.
- Providing administrative assistance to support the Chapter
- I am unsure at this time

20. During which time of year are you available for volunteer service in Arizona (choose all that apply)? *

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall/Winter

21. Why are you interested in becoming a Master Naturalist? Keep in mind that the purpose of becoming certified is to give back volunteer service hours in a leadership role to our Chapter and natural resource Community Partners, rather than simply to gain personal knowledge from local experts in our area. We also seek people who are willing to further explore their role in making natural and cultural history programs inclusive and accessible, for us and our partners. *

22. What unique skills, knowledge, or perspective are you able to bring to our Chapter? *

23. Are you available most Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm and many Saturday mornings between 1/6/27 and 5/5/27? If you already know you need to miss more than three weeks please consider deferring your application for the future. *

- Yes
- No

24. MEDIA RELEASE: I grant the Arizona Master Naturalist Program permission to periodically use photographs, video or audio footage or testimonials of program participants for local, regional, or state publicity or educational purposes. By checking the box below on this application form, I acknowledge receipt of this document and give permission for the Arizona Master Naturalist Program to use such reproductions for educational and publicity purposes. *

- I grant permission
- I do not grant permission

25. I understand that the premise of the Master Naturalist Program in Arizona is to become a certified VOLUNTEER LEADER, for the Chapter, natural resource agencies and organizations in our state. I anticipate giving back 40-60 hours to the chapter and partners each year. I understand that if I do not give back service and keep up with advanced training, I will no longer be recognized by the state association as a certified Master Naturalist. *

- I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE

26. VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT: I understand that by enrolling in this course I am a volunteer for the Arizona Master Naturalist Program in Pima County and will receive no financial compensation or benefits for assistance rendered in any capacity. I agree to abide by all policies and procedures of the Arizona Master Naturalist Program and its sponsoring organization, which will be forwarded to me upon my acceptance into the course. I understand that I am responsible for my personal injuries and illness while participating in this program, and that I will hold the program and all joint and sponsoring agencies harmless. *

- I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE

27. I understand that this program is primarily run by team of volunteers. That means that we are all respectful of each others time and abilities. Our course leaders are committed to making sure that everyone has what they need in a timely fashion, but people are not going to be on call to answer questions within very short amounts of time between the classes. We ask that you allow at least 24 hours for a response. *

- I understand and agree

28. If I am not selected for this cohort, please keep me on the contact list so that I will be notified for next year's session. *

- Yes
- No

Financial commitment

The cost of this course is \$300. This fee covers expenses related to course materials (books, field guides, field tools, etc.); certification materials (printed certificates, award pins, individual member name tags); fees to maintain the chapter (including minimal costs per person for access to the volunteer hours reporting system). Essentially we are offering it at cost. If you cannot pay this fee, please do not worry - we can work with you on a sliding scale for payment. Contact course-coordinator-pimamn@azmasternaturalist.org for details.

29. I understand that the cost of the certification course is a non-refundable \$300 and is DUE by 1/6/2027. NOTE: You will be sent more information about how to make the payment when your application is accepted. *

- I UNDERSTAND THE COURSE FEE IS \$300 AND I MUST PAY BEFORE THE CLASS BEGINS
- I will reach out for assistance with the fee

Donation-based aid

We want to ensure this experience is available to anyone who is interested in learning more about natural and cultural history and those who would like to gain experience in program planning and leadership. In order to do that we rely upon donor-based support to offset the cost of participation.

30. If you are able to pay MORE than the cost of the course to offset another applicant's course fee, please consider making a donation to the Association. Your assistance will aid others in our community who are unable to bear the burden of the cost but would like to learn more about natural and cultural history in our area and become leaders.

- Please send me information on how to make a donation to the program to assist others with the course fee

Financial Assistance

We want to make this course as accessible to as many people as possible and do not want to make cost a barrier to participation. Thus, we have a sliding scale for payment. Please tell us how much you are able to pay and we will follow up with you with details about making that arrangement.

31. How much of the course fee can you pay? *

References

Please provide us with 2 professional references. References from current or past volunteer service are recommended if you have them, but if not, a teacher, colleague, supervisor or other similar person will be just fine.

32. Reference 1: Name, organization/title, email, phone number. Please also tell us what work you did for or with this reference. *

33. Reference 2: Name, organization/title, email, phone number. Please also tell us what work you did for or with this reference. *

Optional demographic information

The Arizona Master Naturalist Association seeks to engage a diversity of audiences in our communities. We wish to cultivate inclusivity and to make our programs welcoming and accessible to a diverse array of age, cultural, sexual orientation, economic, professional experience, and ethnic backgrounds. Answering these questions is **OPTIONAL** but information provided helps us to understand our audience and seek better ways to engage and others.

34. What is your age range?

- 18-24
- 25-40
- 40-65
- 65+

35. Education level - NOTE that you need not have any of these to be welcome in our community.

- High School
- Undergraduate degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate
- Other

Ethnicity

Peoples' ethnicity describes their feeling of belonging and attachment to a distinct group of a larger population that shares their ancestry, color, language or religion. We seek to learn about and teach about as many cultures in our community as possible.

36. I am/Identify with:

- Latino/Latina
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- South Asian
- East Asian
- Black or African-American
- Caribbean
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern
- Mixed
- White
- Other

Final thoughts...

37. Is there anything else you'd like to share with our application committee?

38. How did you learn about our Pima County Master Naturalist Program? *