



Nebraska Master Naturalist –Group Guidelines

Why?

As the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program (NMNP) grows, we recognize that graduates of the NMNP will desire not only to volunteer as individuals, but to share experiences with fellow Master Naturalists and Program Members, enrich relationships with natural resource professionals, cooperate in identifying local needs, and become more involved in environmental events and projects in their communities. These guidelines are designed to help the NMNP grow as one network that upholds the existing high standards of the program.

What?

Nebraska Master Naturalist “Naturalist Groups” are regional or interest-affiliated Certified Nebraska Master Naturalist Volunteers who abide by the established Nebraska Master Naturalist standards, structures and code of ethics. The Nebraska Master Naturalist Program envisions that these Naturalist Groups will be Certified Nebraska Master Naturalists and Program Members that share a common region and/or interest and meet as desired.

Groups will be more informal than chapters, and will not have official representation on the Executive Board.

Expectations

- Naturalist Groups membership will be open to all members (Program Members and Master Naturalists) of the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program.
- Naturalist Groups are encouraged to coordinate meeting locations with Program Members
- Naturalist Groups may but are not required to adopt a name.
- Naturalist Groups will be subject to Nebraska Master Naturalist State Program existing standards, structures and code of ethics.
- Naturalist Groups will benefit from resources and networking assistance as needed from the State Program.
- A Naturalist Group will be recognized when correspondence is received by the State Program Coordinator that all expectations have been addressed by the Naturalist Group.



Master Naturalist Resources Site

NEBRASKA MASTER NATURALIST *Explore. Contribute. Connect.*

- Naturalist Groups may raise funds or collect money from its members or others for specific projects or activities, but will not form a legal organization that holds funds or collects dues.
- Naturalist Groups will not organize as a legal entity other than as a “charitable organization” as defined by the State of Nebraska.
- Naturalist Groups will not manage or submit Certified Master Naturalist volunteer hours nor will these groups conduct “Core Master Naturalist Training”.
- Naturalist Groups may and are encouraged to plan, prepare and conduct Non-Core Master Naturalist Training including Continuing Education Training.

Getting Started

Two or more members determine a need for a Naturalist Group and will identify one or more goals. Nebraska Master Naturalist Program recognition will require a membership-wide notification that a Naturalist Group is forming and that it welcomes all members to participate with them. It also requires notification to the State Program Coordinator that the new naturalist group will meet the expectations as outlined.

Naturalist Groups Structure

Naturalist Groups may organize as they deem appropriate. Naturalist Groups will be required to identify a Point of Contact for the State Program Coordinator to facilitate communication. The Point of Contact will communicate with the State Program Coordinator regarding Naturalist Group activities, needs, record keeping requirements, financial activities, etc.

Legal Entity

Naturalist Groups shall not become a legal entity other than a charitable organization as defined by the State of Nebraska.

Naturalist Group Advisor

If requested by the Naturalist Group, a member of the Executive Board may be designated as an advisor to that Naturalist Group. The advisor will serve as a liaison and assist with group development.

Meetings

Naturalist Groups will meet as deemed necessary by the group.

Master Naturalist Resources Site

NEBRASKA MASTER NATURALIST *Explore. Contribute. Connect.*



Finances

Naturalist Groups may collect money from its members or others to support operations and activities. If monies are collected, the Naturalist Group Point of Contact will be required to provide the State Program Coordinator a brief annual accounting of how the monies were used.

Records

Each year the Naturalist Groups will provide the State Program Coordinator a record of meetings and financial activities (if any).

Name and Logo

Naturalist Groups which are recognized by and in good standing with the State Program may use the Nebraska Master Naturalist name and logo in a consistent format with the existing code of ethics and standards of conduct for official business and communication.