BACKGROUND CHECK POLICIES AND PROCEDURES for the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program.

Results of background checks are evaluated by the Membership Committee of the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program. The Membership Committee will make the final decision on approval or disqualification of all applicants.

1) Criteria for disqualification from the Nebraska Master Naturalist Certification include:
   a. Refusal of submitting to a background check
   b. Providing inaccurate information
   c. Failure to complete the screening process
   d. Lying about criminal history
   e. Information gathered in the interview raises questions about the applicant’s motives
   f. Refusal to complete the screening process

2) Offenses are evaluated by:
   a. Relevancy to the job and/or to the program
   b. History or repetition of offenses
   c. Recency of the conviction
   d. Severity of the offense

If an applicant has been convicted of any of the following offenses, he or she will be disqualified from the certification. If the reason for disqualification will expire over time, they may re-apply when sufficient time has passed.

1) Offenses include, but are not limited to:
   a. Sex Offenses and Misconduct: All sex offenses, regardless of the amount of time since the offense (e.g., child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure, etc.)
   b. All offenses involving child abuse or neglect, regardless of the amount of time since the offense
   c. All felony violence, regardless of the amount of time since the offense (e.g., murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary, etc.)
   d. Felonies (other than sex or violence related) within the past 10 years (e.g., drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment, etc.)
e. All misdemeanor violence offenses within the past 10 years (e.g., simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit and run, etc.). Repeat offenders may be rejected.

f. Any other misdemeanor within the past 5 years that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the functions of that applicant (e.g., contributing to the delinquency of a minor, providing alcohol to a minor, theft, etc.)

g. All misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenses within the past 5 years or multiple offenses in the past 10 years (e.g., driving under the influence, simple drug possession, drunk and disorderly, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc.)