Nebraska Master Naturalist Specializations

Certifying as a Specialist

“Follow your own natural genius,” wrote Thoreau, “and it will not fail to show you a fresh prospect, every hour.”

Many of us learn by doing. When our curiosity and interests carry us into deeper study of a given subject, it can be helpful to have clear opportunities to pursue. Thus, the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program offers specialized, voluntary training for those who are hungry to develop and apply their particular skill and personal understanding, on behalf of our natural legacy.

If you want to further your understanding and mastery of any of the four Key categories, 20 additional hours of in-depth training are required as preparation for related, hands-on service activities, in order to certify in each Key Specialization.

Beginning with Basic Requirements, two Tiers of training blocs follow, for each Key Specialization. A checklist helps track the progressive development of skills, knowledge, and demonstrated ability required to certify as a particular specialist.

Generally, after completing Basic Elements of competency for a Key Specialization, Tier I provides core training, while Tier II offers elective specialized training. Next, a specialist/trainee applies this fresh expertise by volunteering for at least 20 hours of relevant service activities each year, in order to maintain their Key Specialization.

Ultimately, Key Area Specialists will not only collaborate as reliable and insightful volunteers with resource professionals, to address the real-world questions of today. We also hope they will emerge as mentors of tomorrow’s leaders in the Conservation Community, to ensure the wise stewardship of our biodiversity and the quality of life for those to come.

Please review the particular checklist of your interest on the following pages for the details of that specialization.

Grandfather Clause: Recent workshop training which was completed before entering the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program may count toward certifying as specialist, if the trainee/volunteer is using those workshop skills on a regular basis.
NEBRASKA MASTER NATURALIST SPECIALIZATIONS

Specializations are designed to create collaborators, leaders, and mentors in four key areas.

- Interpretation and Outreach
- Outdoor Skills and Recreation
- Resource Management
- Citizen Science

Master Naturalist Certification Requirements
- **Annual Requirement**
  - 8 Hours Training Annually
  - 20 Hours of Volunteerism Annually

Master Naturalist Specialization Requirement
- **One Time Requirement**
  - 20 Hours of Training Total Specific to Specialization
- **Annual Requirement**
  - Additional 20 Hours of Volunteerism Annually Specific to Specialization
  (does not include initial Certification annual requirement hours)

Additional Information
- Trainings, workshops, and activities can count only once, and cannot count towards the completion of a different specialization.
- Progress through the all specializations must be reported online in the Master Naturalist Tracking System and using the attached recording document.
  - Tracking begins on the date of entry into the program.
- Trainings are not limited to the list of relevant trainings, but the relevant trainings are recommended. The list will be updated as needed.
  - If a training is not listed but is relevant to the specialization, it can be approved upon request. Please seek approval prior to attending the training.
- This additional 20 hours of volunteering does not include the initial 20 hours required annually to maintain Master Naturalist certification. In order to achieve the track, a total of 40 hours minimum of volunteerism must be achieved (20 hours for the Nebraska Master Naturalist certification and 20 hours for the Outreach Specialization completion).
- Provide a minimum of 20 hours of service per year, specifically in an area of Interpretation and Outreach. A list example activities is included however any activity approved by the Master Naturalist Program is allowable. These 20 hours are in addition to the annual 20-hour service requirement for Certified Master Naturalists or any other Specialization.
Progress through the all specializations must be reported online in the Master Naturalist Tracking System and on the attached document. Tracking begins on the date of entry into the program.
The INTERPRETATION AND OUTREACH SPECIALIZATION will equip volunteers with the knowledge and tools for the interpretation of natural resources and environmental education.

A Certified Master Naturalist can complete the Interpretation and Outreach Specialization by meeting the following requirements:

- Complete all the required basic elements of Interpretation and Outreach competency (completed during the Master Naturalist Certification Training).
- Complete 2 of the selected Tier I trainings and workshops.
- Participate in 2 of the selected Tier II activities.
- Complete a minimum of 20 hours specifically in Outreach annually.
- If a specialized training is not listed below it can be approved upon request by the Master Naturalist Program Committee.

**NOTE: Hours of training in Tier I plus Tier II must equal at least 20 hours.**

Grandfather Clause: If a volunteer has taken a workshop immediately (less than one month) before beginning their involvement in the Master Naturalist program, that workshop may count if that volunteer is using the workshop skills on a regular basis.
## Tier I: Trainings/Workshops

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Hours of Training</th>
<th>Training/Workshop Title</th>
<th>Entered Into Tracking System</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Project WILD Educator or Facilitator Workshop</td>
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<td>Water Education teacher training</td>
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<td>4-H leader training in natural resources</td>
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<td>Scout leader training in natural resources</td>
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<td>Project WET Educator or Facilitator Workshop</td>
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<td>Project Learning Tree Educator or Facilitator Workshop</td>
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<td>Leopold Education Project Educator or Facilitator Workshop</td>
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<td>Agricultural training</td>
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<td>Wild About Nature</td>
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<td>Flying WILD Educator or Facilitator Workshop</td>
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<td>Growing Up Wild</td>
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## Tier II: Skills/Activities

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<th>Hours of Training</th>
<th>Skill/Activity Title</th>
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<td>Design or write a brochure</td>
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<td>Develop or contribute to a website</td>
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<td>Develop or contribute to a social networking site</td>
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<td>Design or write a newsletter</td>
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<td>Assist in fundraising</td>
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<td>Plan an event or festival</td>
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<td>Volunteer for educational program or event</td>
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<td>Facilitate or co-facilitate an educator workshop (WILD, PLT, or WET)</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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CITIZEN SCIENCE SPECIALIZATION

CITIZEN SCIENCE is the functional empowering of citizen volunteers to partner with research scientists to monitor and collect data that helps answer real-world question.

A Certified Master Naturalist can complete the CITIZEN SCIENCE Specialization by meeting the following requirements:

- Complete all the required basic elements of Citizen Science competency. [4 hrs]
- Complete least two of the Tier I workshops or trainings listed totaling a minimum of 6 hrs.
- Complete at least one of the Tier II workshops or trainings listed totaling a minimum of 8 hours.
- If a specialized training is not listed below it can be approved upon request by the Master Naturalist Program Committee.


- Provide a minimum of 20 hours of service per year, specifically in an area of training. A Citizen Science specialized service activity is any activity that assists science or natural inquiry to future knowledge of the natural world. A list example activities is included however any activity approved by the Master Naturalist Program Committee will allowable. These 20 hours are in addition to the annual 20-hour service requirement for Certified Master Naturalists or any other Specialization.
- Progress through the all specializations must be reported online in the Master Naturalist Tracking System. Tracking begins on the date of entry into the program.

Basic Requirements [4 hrs] training:

- Scientific methodology and investigation.
- Observation techniques – Training the “critical eye”.
- Collection & recording of data; Unbiased observing & data collecting
- The art of working with researchers

Tier I Multi-use Core Trainings - at least 2 workshops, classes or trainings –totaling a minimum of 6 hrs

- GIS
- GPS
- Remote-sensing
- Equipment usage & training (Robel-pole, plant press, microscope, telemetry, telescope, binoculars, trail cams, acoustical collection …….)
• Data analysis, Biostatistical programming.
• Field safety & First acid
• IACUC (Institutional Animal Care & Use Commission) training
• Preserving insects or animals for studies
• Plant preservation
• DNA collection

**Tier II Elective Specialized Training** - one or more as needed in the following areas to complete 20 hours of training.

• Water Quality
• Plant seed identification
• Fish shocking techniques
• Insect collecting
• Apiculture
• Bird songs & identification
• Disease analysis
• Mammal trapping
• Scat analysis
• Animal behavior
• Plant restoration
• Small mammal Tracking
• Plant surveys
• Wetland analysis
• Climate parameters
• Rock& gem collecting
• Wildlife Viewing
• Invasive species
• Planet& Star observations
• Electrophoresis
• DNA analysis

**Examples of Service Activities** – Provide a minimum of 20 hours of service annually.

• Bird counts
• Water testing
• Plant species counts
• Weather & Climatic condition data
• Soil surveys
• Seed collection
• Plantings
• Mammal tracking
- Herp surveys
- Trap checking
- River flows
- Fish /creel counts
- Boat checks for Zebra mussels
- Trail Cam analysis
- Microscopic Blood work
- Data entry & analysis
- Telemetry work
- Chytrid testing
- Bat counts
- Mosquito trap counts
- Burying beetle trap checks
- Wildlife/insect Disease surveillance
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIZATION

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT is the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations (stewardship).

A Certified Master Naturalist can complete the RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Specialization by meeting the following requirements:

- Complete all the required basic elements of Resource Management competency. [4 hrs]
- Complete least two of the Tier I workshops or trainings listed totaling a minimum of 6 hrs.
- Complete at least one of the Tier II workshops or trainings listed totaling a minimum of 8 hours.
- If a specialized training is not listed below it can be approved upon request by the Master Naturalist Program Committee.


- Provide a minimum of 20 hours of service per year, specifically in an area of training. A Citizen Science specialized service activity is any activity that assists science or natural inquiry to future knowledge of the natural world. A list example activities is included however any activity approved by the Master Naturalist Program Committee will allowable. These 20 hours are in addition to the annual 20-hour service requirement for Certified Master Naturalists or any other Specialization.
- Progress through the all specializations must be reported online in the Master Naturalist Tracking System. Tracking begins on the date of entry into the program.

**Basic Requirements (4 hours) training:**
- Wildlife Management Principles
- Wildlife species (terrestrial and aquatic)– life history and habitat needs (completed with Certification Training)
- Habitat Management Practices
- Operation of power tools and hand tools

**Tier I Multi-use Core Training** – at least 2 workshops, classes or trainings – totaling a minimum of 6 hours
- Grass and forb Identification and habitat value
- Tree and shrub identification and habitat value
- Aquatic Plant I.D.
• Grass and forb planting techniques
• Tree and Shrub planting techniques
• Invasive plant identification
• Noxious weed and invasive plant identification and control techniques

**Tier II Elective Specialized Training** – one or more as needed in the following areas to complete 20 hours of training.

• Pesticide application training and licensing
• Fence construction techniques (barbed wire)
• Prescribed fire training (S130/S190)
• Small engine repair and maintenance
• Vehicle repair and maintenance
• ATV operation
• Upland game bird survey techniques
• Deer check station training
  o Deer aging techniques
• Deer post season sex/age surveys
• Waterfowl sex/age techniques
• Wildlife damage identification and abatement techniques
• Construct and install viewing blind with area specific interpretation
• Develop a nature trail with interpretive signs for area specific flora and fauna
• Conduct interpretive programs on natural resources in state parks or state recreation areas
• Develop a sensory garden
• Natural trail maintenance
• Native plan/wildflower trail development
• Train locals to develop backyard bird areas
• Annuran (frog & toad) identification
• Small mammal tracking and trapping
• Plant restoration techniques
• Secchi Disk
• Install post with depth measurements – read water depth levels
• Shoreline management of vegetation

**Examples of Service Activities** – provide a minimum of 20 hours of service annually.

• Tree removal from grasslands
• Locate and remove invasive plants
• Noxious weed control
• Grass/forb planting - hand planting high diversity mixture
- Foodplot planting
- Repair barbed wire boundary fence
- Repair WMA signs
- Replace regulatory signs
- Pick up garbage/trash from parking lots, access road, dams....etc.
- Maintain vehicles, machinery and equipment
- Repair small engines
- Deer season check stations
  - Age deer
  - Record harvest data
- River otter bridge survey
- Build & erect nesting structures (wood duck, bluebird, bat, mallard...etc.)
- Build wildlife watering sites (panhandle)
- Maintain access path
- Jetty vegetation removal
- Dock and boat ramp repair and maintenance
- Sign installation
- Boat ramp use (related to water level dropping)
- Zebra mussel inspection
- Shoreline clean up
- Adopt a Stream Program
OUTDOOR SKILLS AND RECREATION SPECIALIZATION

The purpose of OUTDOOR SKILLS AND RECREATION is to promote activity and development of skills in the outdoor pursuits associated with natural resources.

Specializations are designed to create collaborators, leaders, and mentors in particular areas.

A Certified Nebraska Master Naturalist can complete the Outdoor Recreation Specialization by meeting the following requirements:

- Complete at least one of the Tier I workshops or certification-leading trainings listed below. If specialized training is not listed below it can be approved upon request by the Master Naturalist Program Committee.
- Complete one or more electives in the Tier II list as needed to complete and supplement 20 hours of training in the area chosen in Tier I [for example, Tier I – Hunter Education Instructor Certification (13 hours) plus training Tier II Electives in hunting and shooting sports (equal or exceed 7 hours)].
- Provide a minimum of 20 hours of service per year, specifically in Outdoor Recreation, as defined in the Service Options below. If a specialized service activity is not listed below but is relevant, it can be approved by the Master Naturalist Program Committee. This 20 hours is in addition to the annual 20-hour service requirement for Certified Master Naturalists or any other Specialization.
- We encourage Master Naturalists to engage in continuing education by annually participating in Tier I and Tier II events.
- Progress through the Outdoor Skills and Recreation Specialization must be reported online in the Master Naturalist Tracking System. Tracking begins on the date of entry into the program.

Tier I Core Specialized Training - at least one workshop or certification is required in the following or similar areas.

- Hunter Education Instructor Certification 13 hrs
- National 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification 32 hrs
- Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Shotgun Certification 12 hrs
- Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Archery Certification 12 hrs
- Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Rifle Certification 12 hrs
- Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Pistol Certification 12 hrs
- Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Muzzleloader Certification 12 hrs
- National Archery in the Schools Program, Basic Archery Instructor 4 hrs
- NRA Range Officer/Master Certification 8 hrs
- Hunt Master Training Instructor 4 hrs
- NRA Shooting Instructor 16 hrs
• NRA Shotgun Instructor 16 hrs
• NRA Rifle Instructor 16 hrs
• Boater Education Instructor 12 hrs
• Youth Fishing Instructor 5 hrs
• American Canoe Association National Canoe/Kayak Instructor 16-32 hrs
• National Camp School/Boy Scouts 16-24 hrs
• Wood Badge Training/Boy Scouts 16-24 hrs
• Merit Badge Councillor Training/Boy Scouts 2-16 hrs
• Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow 35 hrs
• Wilderness First Aid 16-32 hrs
• Professional Trappers College 40 hrs
• American Camp Association Instructor Training 8-40 hrs
• American Red Cross Instructor Training 2-16 hrs
• American Sailing Association Instructor Training 16-24 hrs
• Certified Horsemanship Association Instructor Training 24-40 hrs
• Leave No Trace Master Educator Training 40 hrs
• National Outdoor Leadership School 280 hrs
• Camp Cook School 32-96 hrs
• Professional Association of Diving Instructors Training 32-96 hrs
• Professional Mountain Bike Association Instructor Training 24 hrs
• League of American Bicyclists Instructor Certification 24 hrs

**Tier II Elective Specialized Training** - one or more as needed in the following or similar areas to complete 20 hours of training that compliments your Tier I training.

• Hunting
• Shooting
• Fishing
• Trapping
• Camping
• Outdoor Cooking
• Orienteering
• Geocaching
• Photography
• Wildlife Viewing
• Hiking
• Biking
• Birding
• Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program
• Wilderness First Aid
- Wilderness Survival
- Leave No Trace Educator
- Others

**Service Options** – Provide a minimum of 20 hours of service annually in the following or similar areas:

- 4-H leader and youth training, outdoor recreation
- Scout leader and youth training, outdoor recreation
- Wild About Nature
- Flying WILD Educator or Facilitator Workshop
- Becoming an Outdoors Woman (B.O.W)
- Beyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman (B.O.W)
- Family Camp
- Learn to Hunt Program
- National Archery in the Schools Program BAI training or greater
- Mentor Hunt/Hunt Masters Training
- After School Programs
- Others – Upon approval
- Outdoor discovery programs volunteer
- CRO at a shooting event
- Assist with National or State shooting sports competitions
- Family fishing day
- Design or write a brochure
- Develop or contribute to a website
- Develop or contribute to a social networking site
- Design or write a newsletter
- Assist in fundraising
- Plan an event or festival

**Grandfather Clause** - If a participant provides proof of current certification in a **Tier I** area (generally a card and letter from certifying organization), then they only need to complete required **Tier II Electives** to bring their total training, including current certification to 20 hours, or at a minimum complete two **Tier II Electives**.