

CMOP—ADVANCED TRAINING CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL

5.10 Criteria for Approval - The chapter AT coordinator and AT committee should evaluate each new AT opportunity for approval using the criteria below.

5.10.1 Required Criteria – Each AT opportunity must meet these criteria:

- Promotes continued learning and development of naturalist skills
- Provides Master Naturalists with practical knowledge and skills to work in volunteer efforts
- Directs trained volunteers toward specific programs in need of their services
- Covers natural resource issues and information applicable to Texas with a preferred emphasis on the chapter’s local community or ecoregion

5.10.2 Additional Criteria to Consider

- Addresses the management of natural resources
- Provides special training that can be applied to specific volunteer service projects
- Takes advantage of local partnerships
- Offers an opportunity to focus on a specific topic
- Builds on the core curriculum initially provided by the local chapter
- Provides access to a recognized authority in the subject matter

Advanced Training Examples

Unacceptable	Better	Best
A lecture on astronomy and its relationship to astrology (Why: not about natural resources)	A lecture on astronomy and how the moon and sun affect the habitat of animals and plants	A lecture on how to reduce light pollution and the effects that will have on plants and animals
Attending a class on the habitat of animals in Alaska (Why: not about Texas)	Attending a workshop regarding Texas ecoregions	Attending a workshop regarding the Texas ecoregion where you volunteer
Watching a National Geographic TV show about southwest U.S. ecology (Why: no interaction with instructor)	Watching a recorded webinar about your chapter’s local ecology with opportunity to email instructor later	Participating in a live webinar with instructor and participant Q&A about local ecology specific to management of the resources
	Attending a session at the TMN Annual Meeting to learn about the events and opportunities occurring throughout Texas	Attending a session at the TMN Annual Meeting that allows you to put what you learned into practice at your local level
Taking a course on ornamentals and vegetable gardening in Texas (Why: not about natural resources)	Taking a course on pollinator plants of Texas and their benefits for the garden	Taking a course on native pollinator plants for your ecosystem and how to plant them and what wildlife they benefit