

To Whom It May Concern:

The intent of this letter is to describe the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) so that you may evaluate the FMNP as an appropriate educational program for obtaining continuing education credit for your organization.

Each FMNP module (Coastal Systems, Freshwater Wetlands and Upland Habitats) provides 40 contact hours of education. FMNP classes are taught by University of Florida certified Instructors and are offered by UF/IFAS and participating educational organizations. FMNP modules explain Florida's principle environments, the diversity of habitats within each, their flora and fauna, natural processes upon which they depend and the conservation challenges they face. Courses also emphasize teaching techniques and environmental ethics. Participants are required to develop and present environmental education projects as a synthesis and practical application of course material. Consequently, the FMNP addresses multiple forms of learning. In addition to information learned in class and during field trips, FMNP graduates receive extensive reference materials that provide excellent sources of information for continued learning and to support other educational efforts. Each FMNP module has a developed curriculum that includes:

- *Videos* (4 per module) are designed to provide a statewide perspective and virtual tours of major habitats and discuss conservation issues (Table 1).
- *Presentations* (12 per module) are designed to provide additional detail on the ecology, habitats, plants, and animals associated with the environments under study (Table 1).
- *Field trips* (3 per module) cover major categories of environments in the course and are designed to provide students with outdoor experiences and local knowledge.
- *Final projects and speaking requirements* provide students the opportunity to synthesize information from the course and gain experience developing and presenting an educational program.
- *Student Workbooks* include all slide presentations and notes, plus reference materials that go into additional detail on specific topics (Table 1).

If we can be of more assistance to you in this process, don't hesitate to contact our office at 352-392-1837 or info@masternaturalist.org or visit our website for additional resources: www.MasterNaturalist.org.

Sincerely,



Martin B. Main, PhD
Professor and Program Leader
Florida Master Naturalist Program

Table 1. Florida Master Naturalist Program materials used in FMNP curricula.

Instructional materials	Freshwater Wetlands Module	Coastal Systems Module	Upland Habitats Module
Videos	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Florida's marshes 2. Florida's swamps 3. Florida's rivers, lakes, and springs 4. Wetlands in the modern human landscape 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Florida's beach and dune systems 2. Florida's estuaries 3. Florida's nearshore coastal waters 4. Coastal systems and modern human society 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Florida's piney woods 2. Florida's hardwood forests 3. Florida's scrub and rangelands 4. Uplands in the modern human landscape
Slide Presentations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecology of freshwater wetlands 2. Herbaceous wetland habitats 3. Forested wetland habitats 4. Wetland invertebrates 5. Wetlands fish 6. Wetland amphibians 7. Wetland reptiles 8. Wetland birds I 9. Wetland birds II 10. Wetland mammals 11. Environmental ethics 12. Naturalist interpretation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecology of coastal systems 2. Marine and estuarine habitats 3. Coastal dune systems 4. Marine invertebrates I 5. Marine invertebrates II 6. Saltwater fish 7. Coastal birds I 8. Coastal birds II 9. Coastal mammals 10. Coastal amphibians and reptiles 11. Environmental ethics 12. Naturalist interpretation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecology of upland habitats 2. Pineland communities 3. Scrub, prairie, and rangelands 4. Hardwood forests 5. Upland invertebrates I 6. Upland invertebrates II 7. Upland birds I 8. Upland birds II 9. Upland mammals 10. Upland amphibians and reptiles 11. Environmental ethics 12. Naturalist interpretation
Student Workbooks	Freshwater Wetlands	Coastal Systems	Upland Habitats