

To Whom It May Concern:

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

FMNP Special Topics courses are designed to provide more detailed information and/or hands-on skills in specific subject areas. As such, the objectives of the Special Topics courses are to provide participants with additional knowledge and skills to make them more effective educators, citizen scientists, and informed participants when engaging in conservation issues. The knowledge and skills each participant gains from these Special Topics courses will ultimately improve their ability to contribute to environmental education and/or wildlife and habitat monitoring projects.

There are four different FMNP Special Topics courses (Conservation Science, Environmental Interpretation, Habitat Evaluation, and Wildlife Monitoring), each of which provides 24 contact hours of education. FMNP classes are taught by University of Florida certified Instructors and are offered by UF/IFAS and participating educational organizations. Participants in each FMNP Special Topics course receive classroom lectures, a course manual, and field/hands-on training experiences. Participants are engaged in field exercises and exposed to actual scientific studies 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 field exercises, FMNP Special Topics graduates receive extensive reference materials that provide excellent sources of information for continued learning and to support other educational efforts. At a minimum, each FMNP Special Topics module has a developed curriculum that includes:

- *Presentations* (3 per module) are designed to provide details on the concepts, methods and techniques associated with the course under study.
- *Field/hands-on exercises* (3 per module) provide students the opportunity to practice techniques and apply knowledge from classroom sessions in real or simulated scientific studies.
- *Student Workbooks* include all slide presentations and notes, plus reference materials that go into additional detail on specific topics.

If we can be of more assistance to you in this process, don't hesitate to contact our office at 239-658-3400 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