

# Florida Master Naturalist Program

## Instructor Roles and Responsibilities

As a Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) Instructor, you have entered a partnership with the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) to offer an Extension education program. This partnership is recognized as a volunteer partnership by the University of Florida that provides certain benefits and responsibilities. Benefits include the educational programming associated with the FMNP, supplemental advanced training workshops for Instructors and other opportunities supported by the FMNP, and liability protection during field trips, as described in the FMNP Liability Waiver.

As an FMNP Instructor, you represent your organization, the FMNP, and the University of Florida/IFAS while teaching and conducting FMNP-related activities. Responsibilities associated with being an FMNP Instructor include the common-sense behaviors and professionalism expected of all University of Florida Instructors. For example, FMNP Instructors are expected to come prepared for classes, demonstrate respect for students even during disagreements, and be objective when discussing controversial topics. These are hallmarks of good teaching in any high-quality educational forum.

The University of Florida and its Cooperative Extension Service operate without regard to race, sex, or national origin. Inappropriate behavior, such as comments (or “humor”) that could be construed as sexist, racist, or otherwise derogatory, biased, or socially inappropriate, is clearly unacceptable and cause for removal as an FMNP Instructor. Additional behaviors not tolerated by the University of Florida and the Cooperative Extension Service while providing FMNP instruction include:

- the use of alcohol or drugs
- abuse or theft of personal property
- possession or use of firearms
- defamation of the FMNP, other FMNP Instructors, the University of Florida, or the Cooperative Extension Service
- consistently providing incorrect information or misrepresentation of sources of information
- creating an implied or outright University of Florida Extension endorsement for a product or business
- use of state and/or county vehicles without authorization

In the event that the behavior of an FMNP Instructor comes under question, a conference will be conducted between the Instructor and FMNP Director or his designate to resolve the issue and, if necessary, terminate the FMNP partnership between the UF/IFAS and the Instructor. Termination of FMNP Instructor status will result in the return of all FMNP Instructor materials, termination of any scheduled classes, and termination of class scheduling privileges.