

FMNP Conference Presentation

March 29, 2014

Florida Master Naturalist Program Chapters

Jeanne's Suggestions for Top Things to Consider When Starting a Chapter

Chapters

- should follow the teachings and intent of the University of Florida's FMNP
- should verify that they are staying current with the University of Florida's science-based research because science is always changing
- are not allowed to speak/act on behalf of the University of Florida's FMNP
- may speak/act on behalf of their own chapter or as FMNP graduates
- are dynamic
- need to be respectful of individuals' ideas
 - dominant personalities need to moderate themselves for a cohesive Chapter

Chapter Structure – What should be the foundation of the Chapter?

- Informal group meeting to pursue common interests?
 - For example, a very relaxed continued education committee structure
 - Not a formal legal structure recognized by state or federal governments
- Corporation?
 - Non-profit? Pros & Cons?
 - For profit corporation? Pros & Cons?
- Want to Create a Regional Chapter? A County Chapter?
 - Look at the FMNP website and learn about the current chapters

Mission, Goals, Objectives of the Chapter

- Suggest reading these at every board meeting
- Periodically review as a group your Chapter's mission, goals and objectives making sure that they are being fulfilled
- What activities or programs will the Chapter offer?
 - How often? Weekdays? Weekends? Both?

of Lead Member Positions, Their Titles and Responsibilities

- Any FMNP graduate or instructor can create a FMNP Chapter
- How will the Lead Member Position be filled? Appointed? Election? Other?
 - Carefully select the members filling the positions; you'll need more than a pulse!
- How long are the lead positions held? (Strongly suggest term limits)
- Write down lead member positions' titles and their responsibilities
- Duplication is important: Make sure at least two, very responsible Lead Chapter Members have the computer passwords, access to bank accounts and copies of all bank records (if any), and copies of all official Chapter paperwork, reports, filings, etc.
- How often will the Chapter Committee or Chapter Board Members meet?

Membership

- Who can be members? Age restrictions?

Budget

- Create an annual budget and stick with it
- Will there be fundraising?

Questions? You are always welcome to contact me.