



Re: Teacher In-Service Credits for Florida Master Naturalist Program Courses

To Whom It May Concern:

Teachers throughout Florida have received in-service credits for recertification of their Florida State Teaching Certificates by completing FMNP training. Each FMNP Core course (Coastal Systems, Freshwater Systems, and Upland Systems) provides 40 contact hours of education, and 40 hours of in-service credit are typically awarded toward the Florida State Teaching Certificate. Each FMNP Special Topics course (Conservation Science, Environmental Interpretation, Habitat Evaluation, Wildlife Monitoring, Marine Habitat Restoration, Coastal Shoreline Restoration, Invasive Plants of Florida, Freshwater Habitat Restoration, and Upland Habitat Restoration) provides 24 contact hours of education, and 24 hours of in-service credit are typically awarded. FMNP classes are taught by University of Florida trained and certified FMNP Instructors and are offered by UF/IFAS and participating educational organizations.

FMNP Core courses explain Florida's principal 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. Each FMNP Core course has a developed curriculum that includes:

- *Videos* are designed to provide a statewide perspective and virtual tours of major habitats and discuss conservation issues.
- *Presentations* are designed to provide additional detail on the ecology, habitats, plants, and animals associated with the environments under study.
- *Field trips* cover environments discussed 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.

FMNP Special Topics courses provide more detailed information and/or hands-on skills in specific subject areas such as natural resources monitoring and management, environmental interpretation, and restoration ecology. As with Core courses, Special Topics courses include both classroom and field/hands-on experiential learning. For more information about FMNP course curricula please visit our website: [FMNP course information](#).

If we can be of more assistance to you in this process, don't hesitate to contact our office at fmnpcoordinator@gmail.com or visit our website for additional resources: www.MasterNaturalist.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin B. Main".

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

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

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