The Virginia Master Naturalist Program is a statewide corps of volunteers who provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists by participating in Basic Training, continuing education, and volunteer service.

The program is composed of 29 semi-independent, locally focused chapters that are supported, guided, and represented by the over-arching statewide VMN program as well as the following state agencies:

- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Museum of Natural History
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Center for Coastal Resources Management

Virginia Master Naturalist volunteers engage in a variety of service projects in their local communities. These projects focus on one or more of four key areas: citizen science, stewardship, education/outreach, and chapter administration.

Citizen Science projects can involve bird, butterfly, frog and toad counts as well as collection of environmental data. Volunteers use protocols to collect the information that scientists and natural resource managers need to study the lives, habits, and responsiveness to change of plant and animal species or communities.

Stewardship projects may include planting trees, protecting streams, and building or maintaining park trails. Stewardship projects involve restoring and maintaining wildlife habitat and improving water quality.

Education/Outreach projects involve providing environmental education to adults as well as children. This may involve working with school groups or leading programs in nearby parks.

Volunteers who desire a leadership role in the chapter are encouraged to become involved in **Chapter Administration**. Chapter Administration can include volunteer management, project management, and overall chapter management.

The Historic Rivers Chapter (HRC) of the Virginia Master Naturalist Program is based in Williamsburg and James City and York Counties and is currently reviewing applicants for its Basic Training program. Applicants are asked to complete a registration application and to provide three personal references. Personal references are an essential element of the application package. They help to ensure the success of each potential volunteer and the safety of all citizens participating in our program and projects.

Because you have been listed as a reference by one of our applicants, we request that you take the time to answer the following questions regarding the applicant's qualifications to volunteer for our program. Feel free to write or continue your responses on a separate page if necessary.

Please complete and email or mail this *Reference Questionnaire* within 10 days of receipt to:

Janet Harper (wharper15@cox.net) (If you choose to email the questionnaire, please include "HRC Reference Questionnaire" in the Subject Line)

HRC VMN
PO Box 5026, Williamsburg, VA 23188

Thank you!

Your Name:	1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
Applicant's Name:	

2. How would you describe the applicant's personality and character?

3. What do you consider to be the applicant's strengths, special talents, or abilities that would make this individual a good match for the Virginia Master Naturalist Program?

4. What can you tell us about the individual's ability to work as part of a team on a potential volunteer project?

5. Virginia Master Naturalists receive Risk Management Training, particularly with regard to interacting with the public. Because our volunteer service projects sometimes involve communicating and interacting with children, do you feel there are any issues that would interfere with the applicant's ability to communicate or otherwise interact with children or that could endanger a child's well-being? If yes, please explain.

6. Please feel free to share any other insights as to the applicant's dependability, resourcefulness, communication and organizational skills, and ability to work with others.