



South Carolina Master Naturalist Program Standards of Behavior/Conduct

This Standards of Behavior/Conduct document is a contractual agreement accepted by volunteers who commit to the **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM**. The Standards of Behavior/Conduct shall guide the volunteers' behavior during their involvement with the **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM (SCMN)**. Just as it is a privilege for **Clemson University Extension and other partners** to work with individuals who volunteer their time, energy and talent to the **SCMN Program**, a volunteer's involvement in the program is a privilege and a responsibility, not a right.

The **SCMN Program** provides research-based educational programs accessible to South Carolina residents. The primary purpose of this Standards of Behavior/Conduct is to ensure the safety and well-being of all **SCMN Program** participants (i.e., target audiences, professionals and volunteers). **SCMN Program** volunteers are expected to function within the guidelines of CU Extension and the **SCMN Program**. Any violation of these Standards of Behavior/Conduct could result in your expulsion from the program.

The **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM** volunteers shall at all times:

- Uphold volunteerism as an effective way to meet the *natural resource education* needs of South Carolinians.
- Uphold an individual's right to dignity, self-development, and self-direction.
- Be considerate and respectful of other people's points of view.
- Avoid the abuse of program authority, certification, or membership for personal satisfaction.
- Avoid advocacy, lobbying or the promoting of political issues.
- Accept supervision and support from professional staff while involved in the program.
- Accept the responsibility to represent their naturalist chapter and the **SCMN Program** with dignity and pride by being positive mentors for those with whom they work.
- Accept the responsibility to promote and support **SCMN** activities in order to develop an effective local, state and national program.
- Conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner, with fairness, honesty and integrity.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by their individual chapter program, the **SCMN Program**, and CU Extension.
- Perform duties in a responsible and timely manner as outlined in the job description.
- Uphold the commitment made to the program and the required volunteer and advanced training hours required by the program.
- Keep accurate records of volunteer service, training and research, and regularly notify the State Office of these records.
- Not engage in abusive behaviors that physically or verbally threaten or harm any program participant, including youth.

- Not commit any violation of local, state or federal law.
- Comply with all civil rights laws and policies, including but not limited to CU Extension equal opportunity, anti-discrimination laws, and program participant protection policy.
- Report immediately any threats to the volunteer’s emotional or physical well-being to the **South Carolina Master Naturalist** professional coordinating the program.
- Avoid all use of alcohol and controlled substances while performing service as a Volunteer Naturalist. Reporting for service while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance will result in termination from the volunteer program.
- Handle animals and operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a responsible manner.
- Not engage in any behavior that is unsafe to myself or other individuals

**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM
TITLE USE AGREEMENT**

The titles **SOUTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE MASTER NATURALIST, SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST, OR CAROLINA NATURALIST** are to be used only and exclusively in conjunction with activities associated with the **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM**.

- I will identify myself as a “**SOUTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE MASTER NATURALIST, SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST OR CAROLINA NATURALIST**” (depending on the level conferred upon me by the **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM**) only when engaged in unpaid public service in a *Clemson University Extension* sponsored program or other approved volunteer opportunities.
- I will not appear as part of a commercial activity, have association with commercial products, or give implied Clemson University or Clemson University Extension endorsement of any product or place of business while in service as a **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST**.

I have read and understand the Standards of Behavior/Conduct and **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM Title Use Agreement** outlined above. I agree that certification as a **SOUTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE MASTER NATURALIST OR SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST** can only be conferred upon providing 30 hours/year of volunteer service for *Clemson University Extension or other program sponsors* after the 90 hours of **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST** training. I understand and agree that any act or omission on my part that contradicts any portion of these standards is grounds for immediate suspension and/or termination of my volunteer status with the **SOUTH CAROLINA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM**. Additionally, I verify that I am at least 18 years old.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

**Signature of
Host Site Coordinator**

Date