

**TRAINING PLAN
SOIL CLASSIFIER IN-TRAINING**

TRAINING OUTLINE

The intent of this plan is to detail the training in soil classification to be completed to fulfill the requirements for experience to qualify for application to the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers to become a Registered Professional Soil Classifier. Assignments have been selected to provide experience in different aspects of soil classification and soil survey. One or more of the Trainers will directly supervise all work of the trainee under this training plan.

A. BOOK STUDY

- i. From The Surface Down: Read and complete study guide.
- ii. Soil Survey Manual: Read & complete study guides for:
 - i. Chapter 2: Soil Systematics
 - ii. Chapter 4: Mapping Techniques
 - iii. Chapter 6: Interpretations
- iii. National Soil Survey Handbook: Read & complete study guide for:
 - i. Part 620 Interpretation Rating Guides
- iv. Brady & Weil: Read and complete study guides for:
 - i. Chapter 2: Formation of Soils from Parent Materials
 - ii. Chapter 3: Soil Classification
 - iii. Chapter 4: Soil Architecture and Physical Properties
- v. Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils: Read & complete study guide:
- vi. General Soil Map of Arkansas: Read and complete study guide.
- vii. Soil Taxonomy: Complete study guide.

B. SOIL DESCRIPTIONS, LANDSCAPE DELINEATION, PHOTO INTERPRETATION

- i. Meet weekly for 12 weeks to write profile descriptions, delineate landscapes and make photo interpretations.

C. LANDUSE INTERPRETATION

- i. Meet weekly for 4 weeks to learn to make landuse interpretations from soil descriptions.

D. SOIL CLASSIFICATION

- i. Use completed soil descriptions, additional location-specific data and the Key's to Soil Taxonomy to classify the soils from Section B to the family level.

E. LOCATE TYPICAL PEDONS

- i. Locate and plot on soil survey maps for _____ County the typifying pedons, as per the attached list.

F. EVALUATE MOUNDED PHASES

- i. For _____ County, determine if the quantity of mounds for each of the attached series is over 20 percent of the soil map unit. (Trainer will provide photographs of and highlight the delineations that they need to evaluate)
- ii. For _____ County, choose three soil map delineations for the attached series and, using photographs and digital images, determine if they should remain in a mounded phase.

G. EVALUATE STONINESS CLASSES

- i. Determine the surface stoniness class for the attached soil maps units for _____ County. (This will require the trainee to go to the field. The trainee will need to mark of a known area, say 10m² area and then measure one axis of each stone or boulder, no cobbles, and determine the area that the stones cover and identify the appropriate class. They do not need to look and a whole delineation).

H. UPDATE SOIL SERIES TERMINOLOGY

- i. Update the terminology and taxonomic class for the representative series description for all series remaining for _____ County. (Need to use terminology in the Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils.)

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SUBMISSIONS TO THE BOARD**

All study guides, soil descriptions, soil classifications, and other worked completed by the trainee will be reviewed and approved by signature by one or more of the Trainers. Copies of these items will be submitted to the Board for review with the trainee's application for Registered Professional Soil Classifier: