



Cornell Cooperative Extension Volunteer Position Schoharie and Otsego Counties

Title: Master Gardener Volunteer

Purpose of Position: To provide home/community gardeners with unbiased gardening information based on university research and/or reliable experience, through a “neighbors-teaching-neighbors” educational program.

Responsibilities:

1. Successfully complete the required Master Gardener Volunteer Training and remain current through participation in recommended training opportunities throughout the agreed term of volunteer service.
2. Represent Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) within the community; encourage enrollment in and support for the organization.
3. Serve as a horticultural resource as outlined in the plan of work of the sponsoring CCE Association.

Expected Results: The residents and communities will be better informed of environmentally sound gardening practices and be better able to make decisions based on the counsel and advice of Master Gardener Volunteers.

Training and Support:

- Orientation to the Cornell Cooperative Extension system, its mission and that of the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.
- Master Gardener Volunteer Training includes a core-qualifying course in horticulture as well as refresher classes, field trips and workshops to enhance expertise and ability to communicate information to the public related to environmentally sound gardening and related topics. The fee is \$150 for the 10-week training.
- Orientation to operational and risk management procedures.
- Participation is encouraged for periodic opportunities for statewide, regional, and national conferences.
- Extension Educators with knowledge of horticultural sciences as well as veteran Master Gardener Volunteers active in the program.

Reporting: Each Master Gardener Volunteer is expected to maintain records of program contacts, recommendations and time devoted to volunteer activities.

Time Commitment: CCE Schoharie and Otsego Counties Master Gardener Volunteers are expected to contribute a minimum of 50 hours for a period of 12 months in exchange for the training provided.

Qualifications:

- Basic interest in and knowledge about ornamental and food gardening;
- Passion for acquiring, sharing and teaching horticultural knowledge and skills;
- Verbal and written communication skills;
- Time schedule compatible with program activities;
- Willingness to volunteer on horticultural projects and educational activities that help meet the goals of the CCE Schoharie and Otsego Counties Master Gardener program.

Benefits:

- Satisfaction of serving your community to extend the educational mission of CCE;
- Interaction with people in community with similar interests and talents in gardening and landscaping;
- Deeper understanding of the horticultural and allied sciences and the art of gardening.