

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener Volunteer Position Description

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:

- Successfully complete the required Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) Training; remain current with recommended training opportunities throughout the agreed term of volunteer service.
- Represent Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) within the community; encourage enrollment in and support of the program and the organization.
- Serve as a horticultural resource for the respective CCE Association.

Expected Results: Residents and communities are better informed of environmentally sound consumer horticulture and gardening practices; be better able to make decisions based on MGV guidelines.

Training and Support:

- Orientation to CCE, its mission, and that of the MGV Program.
- MGV Training includes a core-qualifying course in horticulture as well as refresher classes, field trips, and workshops, when available, to enhance expertise and ability to communicate to the public environmentally sound gardening information and related topics.
- Orientation to operational and risk management procedures of CCE.
- Participation is encouraged for periodic professional development opportunities at local or regional conferences, in-person or online.
- Access to Extension Educators with knowledge of horticultural sciences as well as veteran Master Gardener Volunteers active in the program.

Reporting: MGVs are expected to maintain records of program contacts, constituent guidelines, and time devoted to volunteer activities.

Time Commitment: Following completion of MGV Training, MGV Apprentices are expected to contribute a minimum of 50 hours within a 12-month period in exchange for the training provided. (An annual minimum of 20 volunteer hours for all MGVs statewide is under review.)

Qualifications:

- Basic interest in and knowledge about ornamental horticulture, flora, and food gardening.
- Passion for acquiring, sharing, and teaching horticultural knowledge and skills.
- Verbal and written communication skills.
- Time schedule compatible with MGV program activities.
- Willingness to help meet the goals of the CCE Association MGV Program.

Benefits:

- Satisfaction of serving one’s community through the educational mission of CCE.
- Interaction with people with shared interests in community horticulture and home gardening.
- Deeper understanding of the horticulture, the allied sciences, and the art of gardening.

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. Accommodations for persons with special needs may be requested by contacting CCE prior to the program. (7/23/20)