

APPLICATION INFORMATION – PROGRAM YEAR 2019

Become a Master Gardener Volunteer -- Hennepin County!

Share your gardening and horticulture experience with others!

MISSION

Extension Master Gardener Volunteers – Hennepin County promote environmental stewardship by providing research-based horticultural information and education to enhance the quality of life in our communities.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO:

- have a variety of gardening experiences;
- want to volunteer;
- can explain new ideas to others;
- are self-directed.

WHAT DO MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS DO?

- Answer garden questions on the Yard & Garden Line, at Farmers Markets, the MN State Fair and other places.
- Teach “how to” gardening classes to adults and youth.
- Lead and engage community members in research-based gardening practices throughout the county in places like community gardens, rain gardens and restoration projects.

2019 PROGRAM INFORMATION

- There is a fee of \$320 for Core Course publications, materials and background check. **Scholarships are available!**
- During the first year, Master Gardener Interns are required to donate 50 hours of volunteer service and complete 12 additional hours of continuing education over and above the core course. After the first year, 25 volunteer hours plus 12 continuing education hours are required annually to maintain certified Master Gardener status.



INFORMATION SESSIONS

Come and meet actual Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and learn more about our program! Come and ask questions -- just RSVP to hcmg@umn.edu.

- Wednesday, August 15, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., Hosmer Library Meeting Room, 347 E 36th St, Minneapolis, 55408.
- Saturday, September 15, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., Sumner Library, 611 Van White Memorial Blvd, Minneapolis, 55411.
- Thursday, September 20, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center, 55430

QUESTIONS?

- Contact Terry at 612-596-2130 or hcmg@umn.edu.

HINT: THIS IS A COMPETITIVE PROCESS!

The Extension Master Gardener Program – Hennepin County, is the largest in the state. We receive anywhere from 65 to 85 applications each year. We do our best to accommodate as many applicants as we can. However, it is in YOUR best interest to be as complete and as thorough as possible on your application. Let us know how our program can best utilize your skills!

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DATES YOU SHOULD KNOW

October 1: Application Deadline Submit completed application and horticultural dilemmas by e-mail to hcmg@umn.edu OR to the following address by **Monday, October 1, 2018**: Extension Master Gardener Program– Hennepin County, Attn: Terry Straub, 479 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, MN, 55344. Applications will be reviewed by a team of experienced Master Gardener Volunteers. If selected to be interviewed, applicants will be asked to provide 3 references.

October 15 to 27: Interview Dates. Selected applicants will be interviewed by a panel of experienced Master Gardener Volunteers.

November 2: Accepted applicants will be notified by Friday, November 2.

November 13-15: Meet Your Mentor Meeting. Extension Master Gardener Program -- Hennepin County Interns are required to attend a 90 minute meeting with their Mentor.

January 8 OR 10, 2019: Intern Orientation Sessions. Attend an intern orientation session on January 8 or 10, 2019.

January 11 through February 9: 2019 Core Course (MN Landscape Arboretum.) All Master Gardener Interns are required to take the Core Course, which is taught by members of the University of Minnesota Extension and University of Minnesota faculty. The 2019 Core Course will be held Fridays and Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska. There is also an on-line option which needs to be completed by May 31.

January 27: 2019 (tentative) Recognition & Awards Banquet. All interns are invited to attend (and even volunteer for!) our annual celebration to recognize the outstanding work done by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers in Hennepin County. The event is free for volunteers; you can bring a guest for \$10.

February 4: Annual Meeting. Interns are invited to attend the Annual Meeting (held virtually!) At this meeting we will review our goals for the year and briefly introduce our Leadership Team.)

March 4: First Update Session. Interns are required to attend the first Update Session of the year and highly encouraged to attend all others. The Master Gardener Program in Hennepin County conducts monthly 2-hour continuing education Update meetings on the first Monday evening of each month, February – June; September -- November.

Intern Application 2019



Please complete all three sections of the application and return the completed application **with your Horticultural Dilemmas** by **Monday, October 1, 2018**. Applications can be e-mailed to hcmg@umn.edu, faxed to 612-466-9947 or mailed to: Extension Master Gardener Program – Hennepin County, Attn: Terry Straub, 479 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, MN, 55344, There is a fee of \$320 for Core Course publications, materials and background check. **Scholarships are available!**

Section I

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ Initial: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail Address: _____

(This email address will be used as the primary means of communication between you and the Master Gardener Program.)

Employer/Occupation: _____

How long have you worked at that position: _____

What is your Gender Identity: Male Female Trans or Transgender
Non-binary

Hispanic Ethnicity (check one if applicable): Hispanic or Latino OR Not Hispanic or Latino

Racial Groups (check all that apply): Black or African American White
 American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Section II

Please share information about the following:

1. List experience you have in gardening (home gardening or in the horticultural industry).
2. List current or previous volunteer experience (list dates, organizations and positions held).
3. Master Gardener volunteers answer horticultural questions from the public in a variety of ways including one-to-one contact at a farmers market or information booth, speaking in front of groups, or teaching in a community garden. List experience you have in communicating information to others (i.e. public speaking, teaching, tutoring, writing, electronic communications, etc.).
4. List any experience you have working with diverse audiences (i.e. seniors, special needs, diverse communities, youth, etc.)
5. List formal education or training you have had in the area of horticulture.
6. While Extension Master Gardener volunteer activities are available throughout the year, there is a peak activity period from mid-April to mid-July. Do you see any significant conflicts in being able to participate during this time period? Do you foresee any time constraints?

Section III

Agreement of Understanding

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I wish to become a University of Minnesota volunteer in the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener program and request acceptance into the training program. I understand that if accepted, I will become an Extension Master Gardener Intern. I will complete the required 48 hour Master Gardener Core Course (online, in-class or combination) and donate 50 hours of volunteer service through the county or local Master Gardener unit where I am accepted. I will complete the intern requirements by the end of the calendar year of my training, or a date agreed upon with the local coordinator. I understand that to qualify, my volunteer service must be completed in activities approved by the local program or state office. Upon successful completion of these intern requirements, I will become a certified University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener. I understand that if I do not complete the required volunteer service by the designated date or choose not to continue in the program after completing the Core Course, I agree to reimburse the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener program \$320, or the difference between the volunteer and non-volunteer (ProHort) rates for the training.

To maintain certification, I understand that I must contribute a minimum of 25 hours of volunteer service and a minimum of 5 hours of continuing education each program year (calendar year unless specified by the local program). I agree to follow all University of Minnesota and Extension Master Gardener Program policies and guidelines, including the University of Minnesota Board of Regents code of conduct and Extension Master Gardener code of conduct described in the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Manual. I understand that volunteering for the University of Minnesota is a privilege and that violation of policies or misconduct could lead to termination as an Extension Master Gardener volunteer. I understand that while serving as an Extension Master Gardener I represent University of Minnesota Extension and I will do so to the best of my ability.

Also, I do hereby consent and agree that University of Minnesota Extension and the Extension Master Gardener program may take photographs, video or audio clips of me and may use these for educational and promotional materials or web postings. I further consent that my name and identity may be revealed therein or by descriptive text or commentary. I do hereby release to the University of Minnesota and the Extension Master Gardener program the rights to exhibit this work publicly or privately. I waive all claims to compensation for the use of photos, video or audio clips of me.

I attest that I am at least 18 years of age, have read and understand the foregoing statement and full agreement of understanding above, and am competent to execute this agreement.

(electronic or handwritten signature)

(date)

Check if electronic signature:

My name entered above signifies my electronic signature

Revised 7/2014



University of Minnesota Extension shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

