



Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County

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Cornell Cooperative Extension Volunteer Position Description - Schenectady County

Title: Master Gardener Volunteer

Purpose: To expand Cornell Cooperative Extension's educational outreach and provide the community with unbiased, research based educational programs in home horticulture that preserve and enhance the environment and quality of life.

Responsibilities:

- Successfully complete an orientation and basic training program provided at the regional level. Participate in refresher training necessary to maintain an up to date, research-based technical background in the horticultural subject area.
- Serve as a resource in accordance with the objectives outlined in the plan of work of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County. Delivery methods may include but are not limited to: soil test clinics, participation in gardening workshops, mass media presentations, garden demonstrations, Altamont Fair, and problem solving consultation with individual gardeners.
- Represent Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County and encourage participation, leadership and support in same.

Expected Results: Master Gardeners are expected to complete the training and probationary periods and attend refresher training when offered. Master Gardeners should give back approximately 30 hours per year in applicable educational roles throughout the community and expand the audience that looks to master gardeners for accurate research based information.

Training and Support:

- Must complete required orientations(s).
- Must complete approximately 12 weeks of training.
- Extensive resource library available for program use.
- Supervision from agriculture/horticulture team leader.

Reporting:

- Maintain daily records of office contacts and recommendations when working on the Master Gardener volunteer hotline.
- Maintain monthly calendar of Master Gardener Volunteer Activities.

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Time Commitment:

- Complete approximately 70 hours of training over a 12 week period and successfully complete a knowledge test at the conclusion of training.
- Volunteer approximately 30 hours per year.

Qualifications:

- A basic interest and or knowledge of gardening or horticulture.
- Enthusiasm for acquiring and sharing horticultural knowledge and skills.
- Interest in teaching others.
- Ability to communicate via written and oral means.
- Knowledge of community structure and resources.
- Understanding of the goals and purpose of Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Flexible time schedule to allow participation in educational programs and activities.

Benefits:

- Access to latest research based horticultural information.
- Ongoing opportunities for training and development.