



To: Master Gardener Applicants

Date: May 4, 2017

Re: Certified Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Certified Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program. The purpose of the Master Gardener program is to support and assist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Hunt County with providing information on good gardening practices to the community and providing community education activities. While you will benefit personally from this training, it should be understood the principal criterion for acceptance is your availability and willingness to volunteer to help county residents with their horticulture interests.

Specifically, training covers the proper environmental and cultural practices in the cultivation and management of landscape plants, the production and care of vegetable gardens, the production and care of fruits and nuts, and the care and maintenance of lawns. Training consists of 10 classes, six hours each Wednesday from September 6 through November 18, 2017. This will be a total of 60 hours of training. Most classes will be held in Rockwall.

The training fee is \$175 (this includes a \$10 background check). A textbook and copies of Extension Fact Sheets are provided which cover all related areas of horticulture. Classes will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. and last until 4:00 p.m. You cannot miss more than one class in the ten week period.

In return for training, you must agree to contribute 50 hours of work through the County Extension Office in the calendar year following the instruction period. Of these hours, 5 must be spent at the Hunt County Extension Office assisting clientele and staff with horticulture related questions and programming and 5 in the Heritage Garden, located next to the Extension Office with educational and maintenance work. After completing the 60 training hours and 50 volunteer hours, you will then be certified as a Master Gardener.

Please understand that you are not limited to 50 hours of volunteer time; you are welcomed and encouraged to contribute as many as you wish. Our interest in selecting individuals goes beyond the first year of training. We need people who are willing to commit to continued participation as experienced Master Gardener volunteers through yearly recertification. There are many ways to fulfill the 50 hour requirement beyond office and garden work. Examples of this include participation in conducting horticulture educational programs and events, presentations to garden clubs and civic groups, writing news articles and more.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension – Hunt County
Attn: Sara Allen
2217 Washington Street
Greenville, TX 75401

After a review of applications, interviews will be conducted. Do not send the course fee until you have been accepted into the program. The limited number of spaces will be filled based on assessment of applications and interviews.

If you know of others interested in participating in this program, please have them contact Hunt County Extension at 903-455-9885.

Sincerely,

Sara Allen
County Extension Agent – Agriculture/Natural Resources

SAA/lb

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
2217 Washington Street | Greenville, Texas 75401
Tel. 903.455.9885 | Fax. 903.455.9650 | AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu

HUNT COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Application for New Class Training

PLEASE PRINT

LAST Name: _____ FIRST Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

If you are a Hunt Co. resident, how long have you lived here? _____

If you are a Hunt Co. resident, what is your precinct? _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____ Cell Work

Email Address: _____

How many years of gardening experience do you have? _____

Is all of your gardening experience from Hunt Co? _____

What interested you in the Master Gardener Program, what do you expect to gain?

What types or areas of gardening most interests you?

With what other organizations are you currently volunteering?

What is your currently employment status? employed retired seeking other: _____

If currently employed or retired, for whom do/did you work? _____

If self-employed, what is the name of your company? _____

Indicate skills/hobbies you have which might be useful in your volunteer work: calligraphy design/artwork
 working with people photography bilingual computers writing speaking grant writing
Others, please list:

Are you available to give back volunteer time during Extension Office hours (M-F, 8-5)? Yes No

Please indicate your degree of interest in the following:

	High	Medium	Low
Office Work - answer horticulture questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing Newspaper/Newsletter Articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Garden Projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demonstration Garden Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Booths & Exhibits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools & Youth Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Event Planning & Promotion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other/Special Projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Becoming a Master Gardener Volunteers is important to me because (please indicate the level of importance, 0 = Not Important and 5 = Most Important:

I will be able to increase my knowledge in the area of gardening.	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will be able to gain new skills as a gardener	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will have the opportunity to receive useful training	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will be able to provide a service to other people in my community and/or neighborhood.	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will have the opportunity to share my knowledge with other gardeners	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will gain a great deal of personal satisfaction	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will be able to creatively use my free time	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will be certified by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will receive instruction and materials from horticulture experts	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will gain gardening experience that can help me get a job	0 1 2 3 4 5
I will be recognized by people in my community	0 1 2 3 4 5
I can get a tax credit for my volunteer work	0 1 2 3 4 5

Select volunteer project areas of interest to you.

You will not be required to complete all areas you indicate on this application.

Garden Projects

- Heritage Garden Maintenance
- Advisory Boards
- Demonstration Garden
- Public Landscaping Assistance

Booths & Exhibits

- Coordination
- Manning Booth

Extension Office Work

- Phone Work
- Home Visits
- Publicity of Events
- Computer Work

School & Youth Programs

- School Programs
List area of interest: _____

- Other Children's Seminars
- Minority & Underserved

Communications & Media

- Event Publicity
- Grant Writing
- Develop Promotional Materials
- Radio Spots & Programs
- Website Development
- Facebook Publicity
- Newsletter Design

Community Events/Education

- Garden Tour
- Plant Swap
- Speakers Bureau
 - Adult (topic) _____
 - Youth (topic) _____

Reference 1

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Reference 2

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____

MASTER GARDENER COURSE & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ...

The goal of the Hunt County Master Gardener Program is to provide opportunities for Hunt County gardeners to use and expand their gardening knowledge in ways that interest them and provide service to the citizens of the county through expansion and enrichment of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service programs in horticulture.

- Participants in the program will be given 60 hours of training by horticulture specialists and other experts on numerous subjects including soils, fertilizers, lawns, insects, plant diseases, trees, and vegetables. In addition to the training, participants will receive a 500-page informative notebook full of horticultural information, as well as numerous additional handouts.
- In return for the instruction, participants will give a minimum 50 hours of volunteer time to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Hunt County within a year of completing this training. Volunteer activities will depend on their interests, skills and areas of expertise.
- The Master Gardener Classes will meet at the Rockwall County Extension office, 915 Whitmore, Suite B, in Rockwall. Class days are every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning September 6 and ending November 8, 2017. The course fee is \$175.00 which covers speakers fees, manual, materials, supplies, background checks, and other expenses. **All applications must be turned in to the Extension Office by June 15, 2017.**
- Space is limited due to the intensive nature of this program. After review of all applications, interviews will be conducted by appointment. **DO NOT send the course fee until you have been accepted into the program.**
- Upon final selection, course participants must pay the nonrefundable \$175.00 registration fee and sign an opportunity contract with the Extension Office. All persons accepted into the course will be required to submit to a background check based on the requirements of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Youth Protection Standards for volunteer screening.

I understand that in exchange for the training made possible through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Hunt County, I will volunteer at least 50 hours of my time to the Hunt County Master Gardener Program by December 31, 2018. I understand that I will become a Certified Master Gardener when I complete the training and volunteer work.

Signature

Cash \$ _____

Check \$ _____

Check # _____

Date

PLEASE RETURN TO:

SARA ALLEN, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service—Hunt County
2217 Washington Street
Greenville, Texas 75401.

Deadline is June 15, 2017.

PHONE: 903-455-9885 **FAX:** 903-455-9650



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Volunteer Application Form

And consent for criminal background history check authorization/waiver

To be completed by Extension program volunteers (EFNEP, BLT, etc.) and Master Volunteers only.

4-H volunteers must register online via 4-H CONNECT or by completing the 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-I.056)

Please print:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. APPLICANT'S FULL, LEGAL NAME _____ | 2. COUNTY _____ |
| 3. ADDRESS _____ | 4. CITY _____ ZIP _____ |
| 5. FIRST 5 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____ | 6. DATE OF BIRTH _____/_____/_____ |
| 7. DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER (optional) _____ | 8. GENDER (<i>circle one</i>) Male / Female |
| 9. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity? Yes / No
RACE (<i>circle one</i>) White / Black / Asian / American Indian
Alaskan Native / Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander | 10. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AREA _____ |

Previously Screened

11. I verify that I have been previously screened including a criminal background check and PASSED. Yes No
- If yes, by who? _____ When (Year): _____
- For what purpose? _____
- Did you pass? If not, what restrictions were imposed? _____
- If you have been screened and passed a criminal background check through an Extension-approved entity, a letter/proof must be submitted.

Please sign at the bottom of the form.

12. I hereby authorize VeriFYI and/or its Service Provider and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to request and receive any and all background information about or concerning me, including, but not limited to, my Criminal History, Driving Record, Employment History, Military Background, Civil Listings, Educational Background, Professional License from any Individual, Corporation, Partnership, Law Enforcement Agency, and other entities including my Present and Past Employers. I authorize the Texas AgriLife Extension Service or any of its components to make reference checks relating to my volunteer service. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility as a volunteer/employee with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.
- The criminal history, as received from the reporting agencies, may include arrest and conviction data, as well as plea bargains and deferred adjudications and delinquent conduct committed as a juvenile. I understand that this information will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for an employment/volunteer position with this organization. I also understand that as long as I remain an employee or volunteer here, the criminal history check may be repeated at any time. I understand that I will have an opportunity to review the criminal history as received by client/agency and a procedure is available for clarification, if I dispute the record as received. I also understand that the criminal history could contain information presumed to be expunged.
- I further release and discharge VeriFYI and their Service Provider and all of their Subsidiaries, Affiliates, Officers, Employees, Contract Personnel, or Associates, from any and all claims and liability arising out of any request for information or records pursuant to this authorization and/or procurement of an investigative consumer report and understand that it may contain information about my character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living, whichever are applicable.
- I understand that I have the right to make written request within a reasonable period of time to VeriFYI for additional information concerning the nature and scope of the investigation. I acknowledge that I have voluntarily provided the above information for employment/volunteer purposes, and I have carefully read and understand this authorization.

13. Date _____ 14. Applicant's Signature _____