

Hall County

734 E. Crescent Drive, Suite 300, Gainesville, Georgia 30501 770-535-8293 karin.hicks@uga.edu

Dear Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Applicant:

The purpose of the Georgia Master Gardener ® Extension Volunteer (MGEV) program is to assist UGA Extension by training volunteers to provide current horticultural information through community service and educational gardening projects through research-based information and the resource of the University of Georgia.

Below are important dates and deadlines to be considered:

- Applications must be received by September 30, 2024.
- No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.
- Interviews will be held October 14-25, 2024.
- Classes will be held each Tuesday and Thursday, January 7th through April 3rd from 9:30-12:30 at the Hall County Extension Office 734 E. Crescent Drive, Gainesville.
- Cost for the training course is \$225. Cash, Check or Credit Card accepted. Checks should be made out to
 Hall County Extension. Payment is due upon acceptance in the program. Do not send payment with your
 application.

As enrollment in the Master Gardener program is limited, you are encouraged to fill out the application as thoroughly as possible. The selection committee comprised of Extension staff members and a group of veteran MGEVs reads all the applications. Selections will be based on your interest in being an Extension volunteer, your interest in gardening, as well as your knowledge, expertise and experiences in related areas.

If selected, you will be notified by October 30, 2024. At that time, your check will be deposited. If you are not selected for the 2024 Georgia MGEV training, your check will be shredded or mailed back to you per your instructions. Please return the completed application to the following address:

UGA Extension Hall County Attn: Karin Hicks 734 E. Crescent Drive, Suite 300 Gainesville, GA 30501

The Georgia Master Gardener ® Program offers many opportunities to make new friends and enhance your horticultural expertise, while becoming involved in fulfilling community service activities. We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 770-535-8293.

Sincerely,

Karin Hicks

Karin Hicks
Master Gardener Coordinator
College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
University of Georgia Extension-Hall County

University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Hall County Extension at 770-535-8293 or uge1139@uga.edu, at least three weeks prior to the program date.



Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program Application

The Master Gardener Extension Volunteer (MGEV) program in Georgia is a volunteer program designed to help University of Georgia Cooperative Extension staff transfer research-based information about gardening and related subjects to the public by training home gardeners to be volunteer educators. Master Gardener Extension Volunteers are active in many Georgia counties. Through this program, Extension is able to reach out and serve more citizens with educational programming and demonstrations.

Dear Master Gardener Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer program! Its purpose is to assist UGA Extension by training volunteer educators to provide current horticultural information through community service and educational gardening projects using applied research and the resources of the University of Georgia.

MGEV programs are coordinated at the county level by the local Extension office. Each local program has multiple projects that reach out to the local communities, teaching about horticulture and gardening, answering garden-related questions and so forth. Volunteers for these projects do participate in at least 42 hours of training and are asked to volunteer 50 hours of service in the first year. (After your first year, you are required to volunteer 25 hours per year to remain an active, certified Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer.)

Extension offices plan and carry out MGEV training classes in the spring and/or fall, on an annual or biannual basis. Training and schedule format are determined by the agent/coordinator and the local office. Classes typically meet once or twice weekly. Attending training classes is extremely important, and absenteeism cannot exceed 20 percent of classes. Trainees are responsible for all material on the exams and are required to pass a midterm and final exam with a score of 70 percent or better on each.



By completing the *Master Gardener Volunteer Program Application and Reference Forms* (below), you are indicating your interest in the Georgia MGEV Program. You will receive follow-up communication from the county Extension office.

As enrollment in the Master Gardener program is **limited**, you are encouraged to fill out the application as thoroughly as possible. The selection committee, comprised of an Extension staff member and a group of veteran Master Gardener Extension Volunteers, reads all applications. Selections will be based on your interest in being an Extension volunteer, your interest in community service, as well as your knowledge, expertise and experience in related areas. Applicants will be called for an interview.

If selected for participation in the MGEV program, you will be notified by the local Extension office. At that time, you will be asked to submit any program fees by the specified deadline. If payment is not received by the deadline, and no arrangements have been made, your name will be removed from the class acceptance list and an alternate selected.

The Georgia Master Gardener® Program offers many opportunities to make new friends and enhance your horticultural expertise while becoming involved in fulfilling community service activities. We look forward to receiving your application!

If you have any questions, please contact:	
Sincerely,	



Tell Us About Yourself:

Basic Information:

Name						
Preferred name for name						
badge (First and Last)						
Mailing Address						
Additional Address						
City		St	ate		Zip	
Phone		Email				
Alternate Phone						
Preferred method of contact Phone Alternate phone Email Postal mail The University of Georgia Coller Valley State University, the U.S. programs, assistance, and mate disability, gender identity, sexual Action organization. Provision of community. Gender: Male Female	ge of Agricultural and Ei . Department of Agricult erials to all people witho al orientation or protect	rure, and to out regard red vetera	the countie I to race, co n status ar	es of Georgia) offers olor, religion, sex, no nd is an Equal Oppol	its edu ational tunity,	icational origin, Affirmative
Race/ethnicity: Asian						
☐ African American						
☐ Native/American Inc	dian/Alaska Native					
	Other Pacific Islander					
☐ Two or more races						
□ White						
I am an adult age 18 or olde	er.					
□ Yes						
□ No						
If accepted into the program in a class roster in the parti- members.		-		•		
□ Yes						
□ No						



Your Skills and Interests:

Please select the skills and interests that you want to contribute to or learn more about during your MGEV experience.

	I want to know more about:	I consider this to be a personal strength:
Vegetable gardening		
Flower gardening		
Herb gardening		
Trees/shrubs		
Native plants		
Wildlife gardening		
Houseplants		
Lawns & turf grass		
Plant Propagation		
Landscape Design		
Diseases/insects		
Water conservation gardening		
Ornamental ponds		
Community gardens		
Greenhouse production		
Other:		
What horticultural experience or etc.)	r training have you had? (credit or nor	-credit courses, workshops,



Have you done any of the following? If yes, please describe your experience.

	No	Yes	If yes, please describe.
Writing			
 Newspaper articles 			
 Blog posts 			
Social media content			
Public speaking/teaching			
 Presented to small or 			
large group?			
• Tour guide?			
Hands-on			
demonstrations?			
Computers/technology			
Organizing events or projects			
 Small events or projects? 			
 Large events or projects? 			
Organizing people			
 Building teams 			
 Communication 			
strategies			
Managing people			
Advertising and public relations			
Advertising and public relations			
Fundraising			
Other			
			<u> </u>
Which skills from your previous pr	ofessional ex	periences w	ould be useful in your role as a Master
Gardener Extension Volunteer?			



Tell Us About Your History as a Volunteer.

Please list any previous volunteer experiences, including nongardening and gardening experiences. Specify organization, type of work, and approximate dates (i.e., garden clubs, professional or hobby associations, plant specialty societies, civic clubs, etc.). <i>Note: Previous volunteer experience is not required to be accepted into the program.</i>
Have you participated in any UGA Extension programs in the past? Please list the most recent. If not, please write "N/A".
Why do you wish to become a Master Gardener Extension Volunteer?
What are some ways you can see yourself volunteer as a Master Gardener in our community?



If you are selected to be a part of the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer program, your volunteer hou

hours	will support the Extension in one of the follo	wing activ	ities. Che	ck topics	of interes	t to you:	
	the Extension office. Events may include themed exhibits at local farmer's markets and festivals, the Georgia National Fair, area retail merchants, and other community venues to answer homeowner questions.						
	☐ Youth activities and programs — Work with team of Master Gardeners to conduct horticulture activities with youth in grades 4-12, such as in-class presentations, school gardens, Junior Master Gardener programs, MG SPROUTS, summer camps, or other activities.						
Rate y	our preference for the following volunteer ex	-	<u>-</u>	-			
		1	\ST	1	1	1	
	one/office work at County Extension Office	1	2	3	4	5	
	ng to groups on gardening	1	2	3	4	5	
	Teaching small groups 1 2 3 4 5						
-	ng large groups	1	2	3	4	5	
-	ng children/teens	1	2	3	4	5	
	Teaching adults/senior citizens 1 2 3 4 5						
-	ng persons w/disabilities & special needs	1	2	3	4	5	
_	sing plant problems and providing s/recommendations	1	2	3	4	5	

relephone, office work at county Extension office		_			
Speaking to groups on gardening		2	3	4	5
Teaching small groups	1	2	3	4	5
Teaching large groups	1	2	3	4	5
Teaching children/teens	1	2	3	4	5
Teaching adults/senior citizens	1	2	3	4	5
Teaching persons w/disabilities & special needs	1	2	3	4	5
Diagnosing plant problems and providing answers/recommendations	1	2	3	4	5
Newsletter editing/layout	1	2	3	4	5
Writing articles for newsletter/newspaper	1	2	3	4	5
Public relations/publicity	1	2	3	4	5
Working on community landscape projects	1	2	3	4	5
Photographing plants/horticultural activities	1	2	3	4	5
Organizing events	1	2	3	4	5

There will be other volunteer opportunities that will arise throughout the year. Do you have anything in mind that you'd be interested in working on that wasn't mentioned above?



Where are you comfortable volunteering? (check all that apply)

Ш	Extension office
	garden
	public place
	classroom
	face-to-face
	written
	phone
	•
With w	which audience(s) are you most comfortable? (check all that apply)
With w	which audience(s) are you most comfortable? (check all that apply) Youth
With w	
With w	Youth
With w	Youth Adult

Describe Your Availability:

Employment Status

Full time employment
Part time employment
Am not employed
Retired
Other

Please indicate times that you are available to volunteer:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
8 am – 12 pm							
1 pm – 5 pm							
After 5 pm							



References (required)

Please provide 3 references who are not immediate family members and who reside outside of your home address. They should be familiar with your skills and abilities related to potential duties associated with volunteering, particularly with youth. Local CAES or Extension staff should not serve as references. Individuals will be contacted by Extension.

Reference 1		
Name		
Address		T = . T
City	State	Zip
Phone	Email	
How long have	In what capacity	
you known this	have you known	
person?	this person?	
Reference 2		
Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Email	
How long have	In what capacity	
you known this	have you known	
person?	this person?	
Reference 3		
Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Email	
How long have	In what capacity	
you known this	have you known	
person?	this person?	

Return Application to:



Master Gardener Program Agreements:

Initial each statement and sign at bottom to indicate that you understand and agree to the following conditions if accepted into the program.

	I understand that submission of this application does not guarantee acceptance to the program.
	I understand that to be considered as a UGA MGEV Trainee, I will need to complete a UGA
	Volunteer Agreement, background screening (including motor vehicle records check), interview
	with Extension personnel, and pay any program fees.
	I understand that Georgia Master Gardener® status is acquired only after successful completion
	of the volunteer training program and volunteer service, including:
	$\ \square$ Completion of classroom training (minimum of 42 hours), not missing more than 20% of
	training classes. I am responsible for class material covered in my absence;
	$\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ $
	□ and completing 50 hours of volunteer service in support of Extension-approved projects
	in the county in which I completed training within 12 months of completing classroom
	training. Any exceptions must first be approved by my local coordinator.
	I will not use my Master Gardener Extension Volunteer status to promote any commercial
	venture or to make money.
	I understand that I can continue with the MGEV program after completing the first year. To do
	so, I will complete an annual Intent to Renew form and meet annual criteria, including 25 hours
	of volunteer service each year, update my Risk Management Training (RMT), and maintain a
	current UGA Volunteer Agreement form and background screening, as required by the
	University of Georgia.
	I agree to not use the Georgia Master Gardener® title for any commercial publicity or private
	business purposes. Participating in a commercial activity, associating with commercial products,
	and giving implied Master Gardener or UGA Extension endorsements to any product or place of
	business is in violation of the Georgia Master Gardener® program policy.
	I acknowledge that I have read the above guidelines and will abide by them.
Signati	IKO:
_	ure: f Application (mm/dd/yyyy):
Date 0	- Application (mm/ du/ yyyy)

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Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer General Role Description (Trainee)

ROLE TITLE: Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Trainee

SUPERVISOR: Karin Hicks, Master Gardener Coordinator

LOCATION: Hall County Extension Office

GOAL OF MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM:

The Master Gardener program in Georgia is a volunteer training program designed to help University of Georgia Cooperative Extension staff transfer research-based information about gardening and related subjects to the public by training home gardeners. Through this program, Cooperative Extension is able to reach out and serve more citizens with educational programming and demonstrations. Master Gardener Extension Volunteers complement, enhance, and support on-going Agriculture and Natural Resources educational programs using applied research and the resources of University of Georgia. The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program is a county-based volunteer program designed as an educational program delivery system and teaching resource to assist Cooperative Extension with the main goal of addressing community non-commercial, horticulture and gardening issues and needs.

VOLUNTEER QUALIFICATIONS:

- Available 92 hours in the first year for training and project implementation (25 hours each year thereafter)
- Interest in teaching Georgians about horticulture and gardening
- · Basic knowledge of gardening and horticulture preferred
- Enthusiasm
- Ability to communicate with others
- Knowledge of community resources
- Previous volunteer experience a plus

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Participate in appropriate orientation, training, planning, and evaluation sessions (completing the required 42 hours of classroom training before volunteering), and keep up-to-date on the latest horticulture information, including annual completion of Risk Management Training (RMT).
- Complete a University of Georgia Volunteer Agreement and background screening.
- Provide reliable, unbiased information in accordance with published Cooperative Extension resources.
- Promote awareness of Cooperative Extension.





UGA Extension Hall County 734 E. Crescent Dr. Suite 300 Gainesville, GA 30501

- Maintain records of volunteer service, including hours volunteered, contributions, and results. Report records to the Agent, coordinator, or other supervisor as directed.
- Wear an official UGA Master Gardener Extension Volunteer nametag while volunteering on behalf of UGA.
- Exercise personal integrity as a volunteer.
- Uphold the policies and follow the procedures of the UGA CAES MG Extension Volunteer Program.
- Follow through with completion of educational programs/projects, communicating about problems and successes.
- Identify needs for training and participate as a team member of UGA CAES Extension.
- Participate in approved UGA Extension projects. Indicate on the attached sheet the projects/teams in which you are interested in volunteering.

TRAINING AND/OR RESOURCES TO BE PROVIDED:

- Master Gardener Extension Volunteer training sessions (42 hours)
- Periodic organizational/ educational meetings
- Master Gardener Extension Volunteer reference manuals available for use in office
- Horticulture library in office
- Consultations with Cooperative Extension staff

TIME ESTIMATE:

- Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Training: 42 hours
- Volunteer Service: 50 hours (about 4-5 hours per month) minimum during the first year after training
- Periodic organizational/educational meetings: 1-2 hours per month

BENEFITS:

- Participate in training programs in all aspects of basic horticulture.
- Learn new skills and sharpen old ones.
- Meet and work with other individuals interested in horticulture.
- Receive basic program materials at minimal cost.

INTENT TO VOLUNTEER

I,, commit to at time as a UGA Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Trainee one year of the date on this role description.	least 42 hours of training and 50 hours of volunteer e, following program policies and procedures, within
MGEV Trainee	Date
Agent	 Date



The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Volunteer Agreement

Thank you for agreeing to volunteer with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension program. In signing this agreement you are confirming your acceptance for a volunteer role.

- 1. I agree to serve as a volunteer with UGA under the primary direction of ______Cooperative Extension. (fill in county or unit name) I understand that if my role involves supervising youth, I will be required to complete a UGA background check and that some duties may include additional training and orientation.
- 2. I agree that my participation in the activities is not in exchange for any consideration (e.g., pay, benefits, the promise of future employment). I acknowledge that, in exchange for my service as a volunteer, I have neither been promised any consideration nor do I expect to receive any consideration. I understand that additional duties may be assigned or specific duties expanded.
- 3. I agree that as a volunteer I am under the primary direction of the unit, county office or department but may be asked to participate in activities that include direction from others within Cooperative Extension and/or other departments in the University of Georgia.
- 4. I agree that, if approved to serve as a volunteer, I will not be acting as a UGA employee or student. I understand and agree that UGA and I both have the right to decline or end my volunteer relationship with UGA at any time, for any reason, and without advance notice.
- I understand that UGA is self-insured through the Department of Administrative Services against state tort claims. This coverage is provided for volunteers in programs organized, controlled and directed by UGA for the purposes of carrying out the functions of UGA.
 I UNDERSTAND THAT COVERAGE DOES NOT APPLY WHEN I DEVIATE FROM THE COURSE OF MY VOLUNTEER DUTIES.
- 6. I understand that, as a volunteer, I will not be entitled to any employee benefits. I understand that UGA may not provide me with any accident, medical, or workers' compensation insurance, and therefore may not be responsible for any accident or medical expenses that I incur in the course of volunteering. If I am an employee of the UGA serving as a volunteer, I understand that I am not covered by workers' compensation laws while acting as a volunteer outside of my normal employment.
- 7. If I utilize my personal vehicle during the course of volunteering, I understand that UGA does not provide comprehensive or collision insurance for my personal vehicle.
- 8. I understand that if my volunteer service involves youth work, I am required to abide by the UGA Cooperative Extension Behavior Guidelines for Adults working with Youth and may be discharged from my duties as a volunteer should I fail to follow these expectations. These guidelines are printed on the reverse of this page and are initialed by me.
- 9. I understand that my participation as a volunteer may involve certain risks In addition; I understand that I may be exposed to other risks which may not be foreseeable. I voluntarily accept these risks.
- 10. I agree to abide by all applicable rules and regulations of UGA and any of the department or units where I engage in volunteer activities. I also agree not to disclose any confidential information concerning youth program participants, research subjects, unpublished research data, and other confidential information of which I may learn in the course of my volunteer service. I acknowledge and agree that any intellectual property I may create in the course of my activities at UGA shall be the property of UGA.
- 11. I understand that as a volunteer I must self-report any arrest, charge, or criminal conviction occurring after the date of my background check to my program/activity administrator prior to returning for service.
- 12. I hereby grant permission for my images, likeness, and voice to be recorded in any media and to be used by the University of Georgia and Georgia 4-H on behalf of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in any publications, media or technology now known of or hereafter developed in the future for any lawful purpose whatsoever without further permission from me. I understand I will not be compensated further for use of these recordings.

Volunteer's Signature	Date
Volunteer's Printed Name	Volunteer's Phone #
Volunteer's Address	Volunteer's Email Address
Extension Faculty Printed Name	Primary Extension Office location
Extension Faculty Signature	Date

Adult Behavior Guidelines when Working with Youth



The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension program establishes the following guidelines for adults working with youth in programming. These are general behavioral expectations for any adult including both paid staff and volunteers working or volunteering in a capacity which includes working with children under the age of eighteen and/or youth considered program participants.

Adults are expected to:

- Work cooperatively with youth, families, University of Georgia faculty, staff, volunteers, community
 members and others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behaviors appropriate for a
 positive role model.
- Represent the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' Cooperative Extension programs with pride and dignity, behave appropriately, exhibit good sportsmanship, and demonstrate reasonable conflict management skills.
- Respect, adhere, and enforce the 4-H Code of Conduct as well as other rules, policies and guidelines established by UGA Extension and event coordinators including state laws and regulations.
- Recognize that physical punishment is not an appropriate form of discipline and will not be allowed.
 Physical punishment includes physical actions that may not be expected of an individual during the program and are assigned to a young person as a consequence for misbehavior.
- Recognize that verbal abuse, physical abuse, or committing criminal acts may be grounds for termination as an Extension volunteer. Abusive behavior towards youth or other adults including failure to provide adequate health and safety measures, inadequate care or supervision, emotional mistreatment of members, or verbal or physical abuse will not be tolerated.
- Under Georgia law, report any mistreatment of youth to the proper authorities. Adults should immediately contact the person coordinating the Extension program/event, UGA Police, and the Division of Family and Children services if the adult believes a child is being abused. Failure to report child abuse is grounds for criminal charges.
- Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws and policies. The University of Georgia prohibits
 harassment of or discrimination against any person because of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment
 and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic
 information, disability, or veteran status.
- Treat animals humanely and encourage youth and adults to provide appropriate and ethical care.
- Strive for a minimum of two adults at any activity involving youth. Adults, in most cases, should not be left alone with a single child unless the adult is the parent/guardian of that child.
- To be housed in overnight settings in separate sleeping areas from children when possible. When this is not possible, parent/guardians should be furnished a letter explaining the situation and informing the parent/guardian that his/her child will be housed with an adult in the same room.
- Under no circumstances, to condone others use of or personally consume, or be under the influence of, or demonstrate any impairment from alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs/controlled substances during Extension youth programs, events and/or activities.
- Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner.
- Accept responsibility to promote, conduct, and support 4-H in order to develop an effective local, county, district and state program.
- Recognize the following behaviors are inappropriate and will not be tolerated in the presence of youth during Extension youth activities or events:
 - consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, and controlled substances
 - o promotion of religious or political preferences
 - o theft, pilfering, or fraud
 - o use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes
 - sexual advances or activities involving youth
- willful damaging of property
- permitting passengers to ride in motor vehicles without seatbelts
- permitting youth or adults to ride in the back of trucks
- o behaviors that are illegal under law

Revised 05/2017

I have reviewed and understand the Adult Behavior Guidelines.

Volunteer's Initials

Date



Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

Hall County

Character Reference for Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Is applying to serve as a volunteer with the Hall County UGA Extension and has given your name as a reference. UGA Extension seeks your assistance in selecting the best-qualified people to serve in volunteer roles. Please return this reference form to our office:					
UGA E	UGA Extension Hall County				
	Attn: Karin Hicks				
734 E.	Crescent Drive, Suite 300				
Gaines	ville, Georgia 30501				
1.	To your knowledge, does the applicant have a history of volunteering in their community?				
2.	To your knowledge, does the applicant have knowledge and a general appreciation for gardening and horticulture?				
3.	To your knowledge, has the applicant ever been terminated from any volunteer service?				
4.	To your knowledge, is there any reason why this applicant should not serve as a Hall County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer?				
Any ad	ditional comments can be added to the back of this form.				
This re	ference must be signed and dated.				
Name:	Date:				
Address:					
Phone	Relationship to volunteer:				



Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

Hall County

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	Is applying to serve as a volunteer with the Hall County UGA		
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Attn: K	arin Hicks		
734 E. Crescent Drive, Suite 300			
Gaines	ville, Georgia 30501		
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This re	ference must be signed and dated.		
Name:	Date:		
Addres	s:		
Phone:			



Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program

Hall County

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Name:	Date:			
Address:				
Phone	Relationship to volunteer:			