



PICKENS COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

502 Stegall Drive, Jasper, Georgia 30143 • 706-253-8840 • uge1227@uga.edu

Aug, 10, 2018

Dear Master Gardener Applicant:

The purpose of the Georgia Master Gardener® Extension Volunteer Program is to assist UGA Extension by training volunteers to provide current horticultural information through community service and educational gardening projects using applied research and the resources of the University of Georgia. Classes for the 2019 Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Training will be held at the UGA Extension Office in Cartersville, GA. Classes will take place on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm, Feb 4th through Mar 18th. This is the only class in this area in 2019..

Enclosed are the *Master Gardener Volunteer Contract of Understanding* and the *2019 Master Gardener Volunteer Program Application and Reference Forms*. All forms need to be completed, signed and returned to the Pickens County Extension Office. Please share the reference forms with the three individuals you list on your application and have them return them by the application deadline to our office.

All applications must be received by the deadline of Noon November 14th, 2018, to be considered. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered. References must be submitted by the deadline or the application will not be considered.

As enrollment in the Master Gardener Program is **limited**, you are encouraged to fill out the application as thoroughly as possible. The selection committee, composed 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 may be called for an interview. **Please return the completed application to: Pickens County Extension, 502 Stegall Drive, Jasper, GA 30143.**

If selected, you will be notified by December 1st, 2018. You will then be asked to submit the \$175.00 program fee not later than Jan 6th 2019. Do not mail the fee with the application. If payment is not received by Jan 6th, and no arrangements have been made, your name will be removed from the class list.

The Georgia Master Gardener® Program offers many opportunities to make new friends and enhance your horticultural expertise while participating in fulfilling community service activities. We look forward to receiving your application! If you have any questions, please contact our office at 706-253-8840.

Sincerely,
Christina Garner
Pickens County Extension
4H and Agricultural & Natural Resources Agent



2019 MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER TRAINING CONTRACT OF UNDERSTANDING

As a Pickens County resident, I wish to be considered for the Master Gardener Training Program. I understand training **begins Feb 4th, 2019 and continues twice weekly through Mar 19th**. I understand that I am required to attend at least 80% of the training sessions (2 excused absences allowed) to be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the UGA Extension Office in Cartersville, GA. I must also receive passing grades of 70% on the midterm and final exams.

To receive Master Gardener certification, I agree to complete a minimum of 50 volunteer hours in the first year from an approved Master Gardener project/activity list in my county. Volunteer time may be required at my County Extension office and will include telephone duty, answering clients' questions, computer and reference work, research, copying, etc., during normal business hours from 8-12 and 1-5 Monday through Friday. I agree to maintain and enter into the Master Gardener online system a monthly record of my volunteer hours and contacts for verification of service. **To remain certified in subsequent years, I must complete a minimum of 25 hours of service annually from the approved educational service project/activity list in my county.**

I understand that the fee for this year's classes is \$175.00 and that a check made out to "Pickens County Extension 4 H" is required when notified of acceptance into the program (do not mail the fee with this application). This fee covers basic program costs including a badge, class supplies, the *Georgia Master Gardener Handbook* and other supplemental references. Credit card payments are not accepted. This fee does not include lunch; therefore, I will be responsible for providing my own meal for the lunch break at each class, except Feb 4 and Mar 19.

UGA Extension and the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

I understand that the Georgia Master Gardener[®] status is acquired only after successful completion of the Volunteer Training Program and completing my 50 hours of volunteer service. 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.

Signature of Applicant

Date

2019 MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name: _____ Date of Application: _____ County: Pickens

Preferred Method of Contact (if accepted) phone/email: _____

1. *What are your present occupation and/or family responsibilities? Describe your time constraints. Please include your hours and days of work. Would you be available on nights or weekends?*

2. *Please indicate times available to do volunteer work:*

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

3. *Below rate your preference for kinds of volunteer work (1 least preferred; 5 most preferred):*

	1	2	3	4	5
Telephone/office work at County Extension office	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teaching small groups	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teaching large groups	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teaching children/teens	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teaching adults/senior citizens	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teaching persons w/disabilities & special needs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Newsletter editing/layout	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Writing articles for newsletter/newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public relations/publicity	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Working on community landscape projects	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Photographing plants/horticultural activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				

4. *Please list any previous volunteer work you have done. Specify organization, type of work and year(s):*

5. *If accepted into the Master Gardener Program, what is your greatest area of gardening interest and how would you like to translate that into education and outreach as an Extension volunteer?*

6. What do you consider to be your strengths? Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Diseases/insects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herb gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Water conservation gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees/shrubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Speaking to groups on gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing articles on gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Houseplants | <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental ponds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawns & turf grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Community gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant propagation | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify): _____ | |

7. Please list any other volunteer group affiliations and how long you have been involved (e.g., garden clubs, professional or hobby associations, plant specialty societies, civic clubs, etc.) :

8. What horticultural experience or training have you had (credit or non-credit courses, workshops, etc.)?

9. How long have you been a gardener? _____

10. Why do you wish to become a Master Gardener?

11. What are some ways you can see yourself volunteering as a Master Gardener in our community?

12. Do you possess any of the following skills or expertise that could help us strengthen our program? Please describe your experience with any of the following:

- Writing

- Public Speaking/Teaching

- Computers/Technology

- Organizing events or projects

- Organizing people

- Advertising and public relations

- **Fundraising**

- **Other (be creative)**

On this page, provide a brief summary for ONE of the following scenarios:

1) Master Gardeners participate in a wide variety of school, civic, and homeowner programs. Outline an educational project that you might like to do in your community. You will not be required to do the project you outline; however, your project may be adopted to be used by the Master Gardener Program. In your description include the goals of the project, its location (if applicable), and the responsibilities of the Master Gardeners involved in the project.

2) Write a sample article about a gardening topic. For example, write about your favorite plant, your favorite vacation/tour, gardening experience, or book review that you would like to share with others. Be creative, and feel free to write about any educational gardening topic you think would be of interest to others.