
2020 MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION PACKET

The Rutherford County Master Gardener program is a volunteer service organization offered by The University of Tennessee Extension. The purpose of the Master Gardener program is to train citizens as horticulture educators for their communities.

The title **Master Gardener** is conditional upon complying with the following:

- Successfully completing the Master Gardener training program,
- Performing and reporting 40 service hours within 12 months of training program completion,
- Attending 4 Master Gardeners of Rutherford County Association meetings per year,
- Sharing only University of Tennessee-approved recommendations (not home remedies but researched-based information),
- The Master Gardener name badge and title may not be used for commercial gain or to promote commercial products or businesses; and
- Certification is renewable annually, upon completion of volunteer and educational requirements.

Included in this application packet are the following forms:

- **Horticulture Questionnaire**
- **Extension Volunteer Form**
- **Training Class Schedule**

To complete the training, you must attend 11 of the 15 classes on the schedule. Please ensure you are available to do so before applying for the program.

Please fill out all forms in this packet completely.
Incomplete application packets will not be considered.

Applications are due no later than December 1, 2019 and should be sent to:
Rutherford County Extension, 315 John R. Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129 OR emailed to reather1@utk.edu

Master Gardeners frequently interact with children; therefore, all Master Gardeners will be Level 2 volunteers. A check against the Sexual Offenders registry is required by the University of Tennessee for all volunteers working with children. Please note that the Background Disclosure section of this application must be completed before acceptance to the Master Gardener program.

Please do not send payment with this application. Payment of the \$150 training fee may be made after you receive notification your application has been approved and accepted. The fee includes all educational materials. A Certified Master Gardener will contact you regarding our interview process. You will receive notification of acceptance status on or before December 21st, 2019.

SCHOLARSHIPS: There are a limited number of scholarships available for this program. If you have a financial need that would otherwise prevent you from taking part in this program, please attach a one page letter explaining your need and how this program will enable you to benefit others. Scholarship recipients are required to maintain active membership in the Rutherford County Master Gardener association for two years. The membership fee is waived the first year but is the responsibility of the recipient in subsequent years.

2020 Master Gardeners of Rutherford County Volunteer Training Class Schedule

All Classes will be held in the Lane Agri-Park Community Center in the classroom.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Instructor (s)</u>
Saturday, February 1 9am-11 am	Orientation <i>Pictures will be taken!</i>	Rachel Painter, Rutherford County Extension Agent
Tuesday, February 4	Introductions, Volunteerism, & Basic Botany	Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, TN Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Becky Fox Matthews, Master Gardener Davidson County
Tuesday, February 11	Soils 101	Morgan Franklin, Franklin County Extension Agent
Tuesday, February 18	Environmental Stewardship	Dr. Andrea Ludwig, Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science Professor
Tuesday, February 25	Entomology & Pollinators	David Cook, Davidson County Extension Agent
Tuesday, March 3	Plant Disease Concepts	Dr. Alan Windham, UT Plant Pathologist
Tuesday, March 10	Trees & Shrubs in Tennessee	Rachel Painter, Rutherford County Extension Agent
**Thursday, March 12 (9am—2pm)	Fruits Training & Pruning Demo— Blueberries & Brambles	Carol Reese, UT Area Horticultural Specialist Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, UT Residential/ Consumer Horticulture Specialist
Tuesday, March 17	Landscape Design & Herbaceous Plants	Lucas Holman, Wilson County Extension Agent
Tuesday, March 24	Turf Management & Horticulture Terminology	Mitchell Mote, Rutherford County Extension Agent
Tuesday, March 31	Wildlife	Dr. Dan Grove, UT Wildlife Veterinarian
Tuesday, April 7	Vegetable Gardening- Home Garden Variety Trials	Darby Allday, Giles County Extension Agent
**Tuesday, April 14 (8 am)	Cedars of Lebanon Wildflower Walk- Get Final Exam	Linda Robertson, Master Gardener Wilson County
Tuesday, April 21	Graduation/Awards Ceremony	Rutherford County Growth Team
Tuesday, April 28 (10 am)	Database Training— Save the Date	Rachel Painter, Rutherford County Extension Agent

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Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

2020 MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

HORTICULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

Name _____ Date _____

Preferred Name; (for badge) _____

WHY DO YOU WISH TO BECOME A MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER? WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM THE PROGRAM?

YEARS OF GARDENING EXPERIENCE (PERSONAL OR WORK RELATED) _____

PLEASE SHARE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS / TRAINING/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE THAT YOU FEEL WOULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU AS A MASTER GARDENER (E.G. HORTICULTURAL CLASSES, TRAINING, ETC.)

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE ? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawns & Turfgrass | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees/ Shrubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diseases/ Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Houseplants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental Ponds | Other _____ | |

TRAINING AND EDUCATION COMPLETED (OPTIONAL):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Degree Program(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Yr. Community College | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical / Trade School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Yr. College | <input type="checkbox"/> Horticultural Degrees, Certification, or Training |

DO YOU HAVE A HEALTH, MEDICAL, OR DIETARY CONDITION THAT NEEDS ACCOMMODATION FOR TRAINING? PLEASE EXPLAIN:

ARE YOU ABLE TO SPEAK OR WRITE A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH? (INCLUDING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE)

PLEASE LIST: _____

I UNDERSTAND THAT MISREPRESENTATION OR OMISSION OF REQUIRED INFORMATION ON ANY APPLICATION MATERIALS MAY DISQUALIFY MY APPLICATION TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE EXTENSION. I UNDERSTAND THAT I SERVE AT THE SATISFACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE EXTENSION AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES OF UT EXTENSION AND THE TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

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SECTION 1-TENNESSEE EXTENSION VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

Level 1 volunteers should only complete Sections A - E. Level 2 and Level 3 volunteers should complete the entire form.

Tennessee Extension aims to provide a safe environment for all persons involved in Extension activities and events. This application is designed to be an information-gathering aid in order to successfully match the applicant's skills and interest with the appropriate service and needs of the organization. Answers given by the applicant may be verified. All applications will be filed in a secure location.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Must present your Driver's License or a government issued photo ID with your application

Name _____
Last First Middle Name

Home Address _____ Length of time at this address? _____
Street, Route, Apt #

City, State Zip code County

Mailing Address (if different from above) _____

Email address: _____ How long have you resided in this county? ____

Telephone: Daytime _____ Evening _____

Best time to call: Morning Afternoon Evening

Have you previously volunteered with TN Extension? Yes No

If yes, county and last year volunteered? _____

B. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Gender: Female Male Ethnicity: (check one) Not Hispanic/Latino Hispanic/Latino

Race: (check one) White Black /African American Native American Indian/ Alaskan Native
Asian Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander

Are you able to speak or write in a language other than English? Yes No
(Please list, including American Sign Language.) _____

C. AVAILABILITY

What length of time are you willing to volunteer? Over what time period? (Check all that apply)

____Hrs. /week _____Hrs. /month 1-3 months 3-6 months 6-12 months Ongoing

When are you available to volunteer? (Check all that apply)

Day Evening Weekends I'm flexible Specific times: _____

D. AUDIENCE INTERESTS

I prefer to work directly with: (Check all that apply)

Youth Adults Senior Citizens Clientele with disabilities Other _____

If you work directly with youth, what age level(s) do you prefer? (Check all that apply)

Pre-school K-3 Explorer (4th grade) Junior (5th - 6th) Jr. High (7th-- 8th)

Senior: Level I (9th-10th) Level II (11th - 12th)

E. ACTIVITY INTERESTS - What are your volunteer activity interests? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Teaching/ demonstrations | Writing/publishing/proofreading |
| Photography | Web development |
| Newsletter | Artworks, graphics |
| Displays/exhibits | Marketing |
| Organizing programs/events | Research/data collection |
| Public Speaking | Typing/ Computer entry |
| Telephone/office work at county | Fundraising |
| Extension office | |

The following two sections should be completed by Level 2 and Level 3 volunteers only

F. REFERENCES - List three people, not related to you, who have knowledge of your qualifications and have known you for at least two years. Provide complete addresses and phone numbers.

1. _____

Name	Street Address	City/State/Zip	
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Day Phone Number	Evening Phone Number	Email Address	Relationship
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2. _____

Name	Street Address	City/State/Zip
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Day Phone Number	Evening Phone Number	Email Address	Relationship
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3. _____

Name	Street Address	City/State/Zip
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Day Phone Number	Evening Phone Number	Email Address	Relationship
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G. BACKGROUND DISCLOSURE - A “yes” answer does not automatically exclude an applicant from becoming a registered Extension Volunteer. If there are any changes in answers to the following questions, the volunteer should immediately contact the local Extension office and notify the change.

1. Have you ever had any criminal conviction related to:
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|
| a. A crime of violence? | Yes | No |
| b. Child abuse or neglect? | Yes | No |
| c. Sexual related offenses? | Yes | No |

2. If yes, to any of the above questions, provide date(s), location(s), and complete name at the time(s).

I authorize contacting the references listed on this application. I understand the omission or misrepresentation of information requested may result in non-appointment or dismissal as an Extension volunteer. If appointed as a volunteer, I agree to abide by the policies of UT Extension, and the University of Tennessee, and Tennessee State University and to fulfill my volunteer responsibilities to the best of my abilities. I also understand that UT Extension, the University of Tennessee and/or Tennessee State University may contact other individuals as needed to verify my skills, background, and experience in working with Extension clientele.

I acknowledge that I have received and read the Tennessee Extension Volunteer Statement of Principles (all volunteers). I acknowledge that I have received and read the University of Tennessee Programs for Minors Safety Policy and Standards of Conduct for Covered Adults (Levels 2 & 3 volunteers).

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of my statements are true, correct, complete, and made in good faith.

Applicant's Signature Date

<p>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:</p> <p>This applicant: (Pick one)</p>	<p>Date application was received: _____</p> <p>Met qualifications for an Extension volunteer position. Volunteer Level: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3</p> <p>Did not meet qualifications for an Extension volunteer position.</p>
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