

What is the Master Gardener Volunteer Program?

From its beginning, the Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteer program has excelled as a premier community service-learning program connecting America's foremost past-time - gardening - with volunteer opportunities in our area. Volunteers are trained to aid University of Wisconsin Extension staff by helping people in the community to better understand horticulture and their environment. Any adult interested in gardening can participate in the Master Gardener Volunteer training – no previous experience or training is required. Acceptance is contingent on passing a criminal background check.

Students will receive 36 hours of training. In return, students are expected to volunteer a minimum of 24 hours of their time assisting with community projects related to horticulture, gardening, or nutrition annually and stay current by attending 10 hours of continuing education each year.

Volunteer opportunities are endless:

- County and community fairs
- Public libraries
- Horticultural workshops and talks
- Farmers markets
- Collecting research data
- Answering telephone inquiries
- Writing newspaper gardening articles
- Volunteering at the Extension Office
- Youth groups such as 4-H, FFA, Scouts, etc.
- Other horticultural projects



Increase your horticulture skills and volunteer to help your community

UW-Extension

Master Gardener Volunteer Training



The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is sponsored by Spooner Area UW-Extension in cooperation with the North Country Master Gardener Volunteers.



Many Master Gardener Volunteers enthusiastically volunteer their time beyond the required minimum numbers of hours. Last year alone, the North Country MGV volunteered over 2,300 hours of horticulture-related community service.

UW-Extension provides equal opportunity in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA requirements. If you have any special needs or require special accommodations, please call the Spooner Area UW-Extension Office at 715-635-3506 as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.



2018 Master Gardener Volunteer Training

Dates/Times: Tuesdays 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for 12 weeks beginning April 3 through June 19, 2018; an orientation session will be held on Saturday, March 17, from 9:00 am to Noon

Location: Spooner Agricultural Research Station, W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801

Registration Fee: \$125 per person or \$200 for two people willing to share printed materials.

Each week a different horticultural subject will be explored such as: Annual, Perennial and Native Plants, Houseplants, Landscape Design, Fruits and Vegetables, Weeds, Wildlife, Soils, Insects, Plant Diseases and Low Input Lawn Care. The final weekly schedule will be provided on the first night of training.

Participants will learn from a wide range of instructors from University of Wisconsin, UW-Extension, local experts and through on-line materials. A computer with Internet capability is recommended but not required. Individuals without a connection to the Internet will need to make arrangements with their local library or contact the UW-Extension Office for other alternatives.

To successfully complete the training, you will need to attend most of the training sessions, pass a final examination, and fulfill your community service commitment. Class size is limited, so register early. Paid registration should be received by March 2, 2018.



For more information contact: Kevin Schoessow, Agricultural Development Agent, 715-635-3506 or kevin.schoessow@ces.uwex.edu; or Sue Reinardy, UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, 715-462-3361 or sreinardy@centurytel.net.



Some 2017 North Country Master Gardener highlights

The Spooner Agricultural Research Station Teaching and Display Garden is designed, maintained and used for an outdoor classroom with the help and guidance of volunteers.

MGVs host a Mini Master Gardener Short Course for youth and their families each year. School gardens through the region benefit from the Master Gardener Volunteers who design, maintain and teach in the gardens.

Local parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and municipalities in our three-county area have Master Gardener volunteers who assist with maintaining plantings and habitat.

Learn more about the North Country Master Gardener Volunteers at www.northcountrymgv.org.

Registration

Pre-registration is required

Registration deadline is March 2, 2018

Name

Name as you would like it to appear on you name tag

Address

City, State Zip

Phone

Email

The Master Gardener program is first and foremost a volunteer organization. You will be expected to volunteer a minimum of 24 hours of garden-related community service within a year as a requirement of this program.

(check) I understand and agree to this volunteer requirement

\$125 registration fee (or \$200 for two)

Payment must accompany your application. Please make check payable to **UW-Extension**. Enclose with application and behavior expectation forms (forms available online at www.northcountrymgv.org/training or call the UW-Extension Office at 715-635-3506.)

Mail to:

Spooner Area UW-Extension
Master Gardener Volunteer Registration
W6646 Highway 70
Spooner, WI 54801