

Georgia Master Gardener Gold Star Advanced Training Application

Advanced Training (AT) is for the purpose of intensively training active MGEVs on specific subjects beyond the core horticultural training to further equip them as educators of environmentally sound horticulture. Gold Star recognition is for volunteers who have successfully completed a specialist advanced training program consisting of six Advanced Training sessions, three of which will be in the same AT category and one of which will be a required (R) training session; and completion of an educational project related to a specialty subject area.

Advanced training is sponsored by UGA Cooperative Extension and sessions must be approved by the State Program Office. A list of approved training criteria is available from the State MG Extension Volunteer Program office or the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer web site. Only two training sessions taken previously for Silver Star Recognition will count as electives toward the required number of training sessions for Gold Star Recognition. Master Gardeners do not need to have earned the Silver Star to in order to qualify for the Gold Star program.

Application Requirements (completed PRIOR to training commencement)

1. MGEVs must have: (a) successfully completed the initial 42-hour training and 50-hour volunteer service requirement, (b) current, active status (including a current UGA Volunteer Agreement, Risk Management Training, and any additionally required screening forms); and (c) County Extension Office written approval (section I, this form).

2. MGEVs must select one specialty subject area:
Sustainable Garden and Landscape
Water Quality and Management
Youth and Community Gardening
Diagnostics & Technology
Urban Forestry and Ecology

3. A project proposal must be included with the advanced training application and be approved by the local County Extension Office (section II, this form).

Training Requirements (should be completed within five years)

1. Select one specialty area and successfully complete 3 modules within specialty subject area (posted on the Georgia Master Gardener Program webpage at www.gamastergardener.org)
2. Successfully complete 2 elective modules from any other subject area
3. Successfully complete 1 required module
4. Successfully complete volunteer project (related to specialty subject area).
5. Submit completed application form, including project summary, to CEA for approval
6. CEA submits the completed advanced training application to the State Program Office to obtain the certificate and star.

Post-completion Requirements

Applicants must be willing to commit to a higher level of volunteer service, and serve as a resource that will expand Extension outreach in a specialty subject area. MGEVs completing this level will be expected to perform such activities as teaching, preparing materials, planning programs and providing leadership in these subject areas under the supervision of the local Extension Agent.



Advanced Training Gold Star Application

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I. VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Name _____ County _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____ Year Trained _____

Target Gold Star Subject Area (Check One)

- Sustainable Garden and Landscape
- Water Quality and Management
- Youth and Community Gardening
- Diagnostics and Technology
- Urban Forestry and Ecology

I have read and understand the Gold Star Level guidelines on page one of this application. I understand that in order to achieve Gold Star recognition, I must have: (a) successfully completed the initial 42-hour training and 50-hour volunteer service requirement, (b) current, active status (including a current UGA Volunteer Agreement, Risk Management Training, and any additionally required screening forms); and (c) County Extension Office written approval (section I, this form).

Applicant's Signature

Date

This applicant is an active Master Gardener Extension Volunteer and is recommended to participate in Gold Star Advanced Training.

CEC, Agent, or Local MG Coordinator

Date



II. PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Date Proposed:

The mission of the GA MGEV Program is to assist Cooperative Extension by training Master Gardener Extension Volunteers to provide unbiased horticultural information to Georgians through volunteer community service and educational gardening projects using applied research and the resources of the University of Georgia.

1. Basic Project Information:

Project Title:

Estimated Project Start + End Dates:

Person(s) Proposing/Requesting Project:

Contact Info of person(s) proposing/requesting project (phone numbers and email addresses):

Purpose of Project:

Project Audience:

a. Adults b. Youth (ages 6-8) (ages 9 -18) c. Adults & Youth

**if b or c is checked, project must also be reviewed by 4-H staff.*



2. Project Resource Requirements:

Estimated number of Volunteers needed to make the project a success:

Estimated number of Hours needed:

Training needed:

Funding Needed/Financial Source:

Other groups or organizations involved:

3. Anticipated Effects and Values:

Anticipated effect project will have on the community it serves:

Educational value of project:



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Master Gardener Program

Procedures required for implementing the project + Required 4-H documentation if applicable:

Projected sustainability and maintenance plan:

Annual evaluation and measurable impact of project:

MGEV Representative: _____ Date: _____

County Extension Agent Approval: _____ Date: _____

County Extension 4-H Reviewer for youth projects: _____ Date: _____

Projects are not officially approved for MGEV volunteer service credit until proposal is signed by Extension Agent. Continued on reverse.



Choose the MGEV Program State Initiative that this project satisfies:

- **Environmental Stewardship** – Increasing awareness and knowledge of landscape and garden management for the optimum use and protection of the environment, including management of all aspects of the residential landscape (soil, plants, insects, diseases, and wildlife); and understanding and proper use of equipment, pesticides, fertilizers, and other landscaping inputs to have the greatest value with little negative impact on the environment.
- **Home Food Production** – Teaching the benefits of home food production and developing skills and knowledge in growing food, managing community gardens, or contributing to food banks or kitchens.
- **Gardening with Youth** – Increasing young people’s awareness and understanding of the value of horticulture and landscaping, using horticulture as a tool to increase responsibility and leadership for youth, and teaching individuals and professionals (i.e., teachers and therapists) how to use horticulture to reach young people.
- **Value of Landscapes** – Developing within communities the knowledge and skill to ensure proper design, installation, and maintenance of sustainable landscapes for economic benefit to residents, state and local government employees and agencies, and professionals in impacted fields, such as tourism and real-estate development.
- **Health Benefits of Gardening** – Teaching the value of the interior and exterior landscape to human health, well-being, and quality of life, transferring knowledge and skills to intended audiences that they might utilize this information for personal health and a healthier workplace and community.

Choose any key words that relate to this project:

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| — Entomology | — Junior Master Gardener programs | — Community-based program |
| — Entrepreneurship | — School garden | — Adult class |
| — Integrated Pest Management | — After school program | — Judge |
| — 'Master' Series | — Increased exercise | — Exhibits |
| — Landscape | — Saving money on food | — Civic or Garden Club |
| — Nuts | — Community gardens | — Presentations (Speaker’s Bureau) |
| — Ornamentals | — Food preparation (fresh fruits and vegetables) | — Demonstration Gardens |
| — Turf | — Food preservation (fresh fruits and vegetables) | — Conducted or Judged Flower Shows |
| — Plant Pathology | — Childhood overweight prevention project | — Extension Office |
| — Small Fruit | — Dietary guidelines | — Habitat for Humanity |
| — Tree Fruit | — Healthy eating | — Home Garden Visits |
| — Vegetables | — Agricultural literacy | — Newsletters |
| — Water Banner Program | — Community service | — Newspaper or Magazine Articles |
| — Water conservation | — Environmental stewardship | — Website content (for public) |
| — Water quality | — Gardening with Youth | — Social Media content (for public) |
| — Waste management (part of septic project) | — Health Benefits of Gardening | — Plant Clinics |
| — 4-H/Youth Development | — Home Food Production | — Research and or Writing |
| — Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) | — Value of Landscaping | — Teaching Adult Classes |
| — EFNEP | — Workforce preparation | — TV & Radio Programs |
| — At-risk population | — Garden tour | — Advisory Committees |
| — Special population | | — GMGA Committees |
| — In-school program | | — Local MG Program Administration |

