March 29, 2021

To Prospective Master Gardener Volunteer:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteers with Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County!

We have decided to postpone our next Master Gardener Volunteers Training until January of 2022. Applications will be sent out in the beginning of September 2021 and will be due by Friday, October 15, 2021. Once we receive your application, we will schedule an interview with you for late October / early November. Final decisions will be made by December 1st and the first class will held January 8, 2022.

For the 2022 training, we will be using a new training model which will include online work in conjunction with in-person classes. The online work can be done on your own time and will include watching lectures, contributing to online forums, performing knowledge checks, writing reflections, etc. Trainees will be expected to complete all online assignments in a timely manner in accordance with the program schedule.

In-person classes will be held once a month. We are still finalizing the schedule, but tentatively, they will be on the 2nd Saturday of the month beginning January 2022 until December 2022. They will start at 9:00 am and finish by 4:00 pm. Attendance at all twelve in-person classes is expected. These classes will include some lectures, but they will focus on hands-on activities to reinforce the topics covered in the online portion of the course. Most classes will take place at our office in Middletown, but potential field trips include a local orchard, one or more community gardens, and our Education and 4-H Park in Otisville.

A few other things to note about the Master Gardener Volunteer Training in 2022. At the beginning of the training, each trainee will be paired with a Master Gardener Volunteer mentor. Mentors and their mentees will have periodic small group check-ins. Trainees will be required to participate in at least two volunteer activities with their mentor during the training. They will also be expected to attend at least two of our Master Gardener Volunteer monthly meetings.

If you would like to learn more about the Master Gardener Volunteer Program, please join us for a virtual panel of Master Gardener Volunteers on Tuesday, May 18th @ 7:00 pm. Please let me know if you have any questions.

peace.

Susan Ndiaye
Community Horticulture Educator
Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator
4-H Natural Resource Educator
sgn32@cornell.edu
(845) 344-1234 (ext. 250)