

Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program (MGVP) in New York State prepares individuals for volunteer roles in garden-based learning activities that support the educational mission of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and the CCE Master Gardener Program Mission, Vision, and Values.

Becoming A Master Gardener: Expectation and Requirements

Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) are required to participate in a minimum of 55 hours of Cornell Garden-Based Learning Library Curriculum (Core Preparation) and complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service in the first year (Intern Year). After volunteers meet all criteria (Core Preparation, Community Action Project, and Volunteer Service), they will receive a Master Gardener Certificate and may use the Master Gardener title when attending Cornell Cooperative Extension events.

To remain an Active MGVP, at least 20 volunteer hours must be completed every year following the Intern Year. At least 10 hours of Advanced Training & Continuing Education experiences are also required every year. Cornell Garden-Based Learning will provide Advanced Training Topics webinars.

Attendance at the Core Preparation is required.

MGVs are required to keep track of the time they volunteer in different capacities in the MGVP Program. Volunteer hours serve the education program mission and should only be with the approved partner organizations of CCE Steuben.

You may use the following survey link to report your Volunteer and Advanced Training & Continuing Education Hours and specific details of each volunteer event (i.e., volunteer site, hours, activity, and dates volunteered).

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_c04YfqdEnv2Q0MC

You can report your volunteer hours as often as you like (i.e., after each volunteer activity) or cumulative hours submitted no later than December 1st of each year.

Cost

The program fee helps defray the cost of teaching, training materials and bulletins. The fee is approximately \$100 and will vary each year based on the program delivery methods (in-person, virtual, or hybrid), curriculum, supplies and materials distributed.

Constraints

MGVs represent Cornell University and volunteers may not use the Master Gardener title beyond Cornell Cooperative Extension sponsored events.

Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This program emphasizes exploring all options of pest management such as tolerance, prevention, mechanical controls, and chemical controls. Volunteers are taught IPM strategies and when volunteering, should refer to these management practices and Cornell recommendations when providing suggestions.