

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

14 Saturdays, March 1 – May 31, 2014, 9am-4pm plus additional required continuing education opportunities to be announced

January 3: Last day to request application survey link

January 15: Last day to submit completed online application survey

WHO CAN APPLY

- Any resident of Los Angeles County with an email address and computer access. Most communication will be by email and websites.
- Anyone who wants to help teach Los Angeles County residents to garden more sustainably.
- We especially invite residents of underserved neighborhoods and bilingual gardeners.

HOW TO APPLY

- You must be on either or both of our email resource elists – 1) Home and Community Gardening and Food Security, 2) School Gardening.
- If you're not on either elist, email ydsavio@ucanr.edu by January 3, 2014 and indicate which elist(s) you want to be on (you can be on both).
- If you're already on either or both elists, email ydsavio@ucanr.edu by January 3, 2014 to request the online application survey link.
- Complete and submit the online application survey by January 15, 2014. No application will be considered before then.

WHAT WE'LL DO

- Accept 50 applicants. Main criteria for acceptance (if you meet these criteria, please apply; if you don't meet these criteria, please gain more experience and apply in the future): 1) Prior community service utilizing gardening, 2) Know gardening basics, 3) Passion for helping other gardeners, 4) Given public presentations, 5) Work well with people of diverse backgrounds, 6) Initiative in starting and carrying through successful projects, and 7) have access to a computer and have basic working familiarity with websites and email.
- On February 3, 2014, we will email you whether or not you have been accepted into the program. Please don't contact us earlier.
- If you have been accepted, we will:
 - Email you an acceptance letter with your first class assignments and due dates – all to be completed prior to the first day of class.
 - Email you a Live Scan form and list of Live Scan locations in L.A. County for required fingerprinting and criminal background check by the California Department of Justice. This must be done for our program specifically, only at these locations, regardless if you've done it for another agency. Note differences in prices, hours, and whether an appointment is required.
 - Add you to the MG Collaborative Tools so you'll receive all program email and where all documents and resources will be listed.
 - Add you to the MG Statewide Volunteer Management System so you can post all of your hours.
- Teach you how to garden sustainably. Topics and garden activities will cover basic plant science, propagation, fertilization, irrigation, soils, irrigation, composting, vegetable and herb and fruit gardening, ornamental plants and trees gardening, Integrated Pest Management (diseases, insects, weeds, small animals), tools, how to start community and school gardens, and community outreach techniques.
- Provide you with lots of Volunteer and Continuing Education opportunities all over Los Angeles County.

WHAT YOU'LL DO IF YOU'RE ACCEPTED INTO THE MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

- By February 14, 2014, mail the Live Scan form completed by the Live Scan operator.
- By February 14, 2014, pay course fee online with credit card (you'll receive the link upon acceptance), or mail check for \$250 made payable to "University of California Regents". Low-income residents may apply for a deferred payment plan – see application survey for details.
- By February 14, 2014, respond to the MG Collaborative Tools invitation to join.
- By February 14, 2014, respond to the MG Statewide Volunteer Management System invitation to join.
- By March 1, 2013, become familiar with our Master Gardener public website and our MG Collaborative Tools website.
- Attend 14 classes on Saturdays, March 1 through May 31, 2014, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, at a location to be announced. You must attend the first class on March 1. After the first class, you may miss only one class – and only with prior notice. Some meetings will be at various garden sites.
- Give gardening workshops at community gardens, school gardens, seniors' gardens, housing development & other public gardens.
- Answer gardening questions at gardens and fairs, on your phone, or by your email.
- Help with program activities and workshops.
- Post all your Volunteer and Continuing Education hours on our online Statewide MG Volunteer Management System (instructions provided).
- Starting in June 2014, attend monthly MG Continuing Education meetings on the second Saturday of every month at different garden locations.

WHAT YOU'LL GET

- University of California publication California Master Gardener Handbook and discounts on other UC publications.
- Certificate of Completion of Class Instruction - after completing the 14-week training program and passing the take-home, open-book examination.
- Monthly Continuing Education meetings with speakers and activities on in-depth gardening topics.
- Frequent emails of many Volunteer and Continuing Education opportunities and other program information.
- Annual recertification as an active MG after you post online at least 50 Volunteer hours by June 30, 2015. (Future years' minimum annual requirements are 25 Volunteer AND 12 Continuing Education hours.)
- Joy and satisfaction that you're helping other gardeners grow more sustainably, you're making new friends, and we're all working together to beautify our neighborhoods and "Green LA"!

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Email Valerie Borel at vtborel@ucanr.edu by January 2, 2014.

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