

How do Master Gardeners Volunteer?

Each member is required to give 25 volunteer hours each year. Hours are counted between June 1st and May 31st. It is important to keep an accurate count of your volunteer hours and submit your time sheet with details by May 31st each year to the Volunteer Coordinator.

There are many ways a Master Gardener may choose to volunteer but the key is to share accurate, science –based information with our local communities.

Master Gardeners hold workshops and teach others to manage their gardens in a sustainable manner.

This may entail holding information sessions at local nurseries, libraries or schools. The topics of discussion may include , water conservation, water quality protection , invasive species ,seed growing ,vegetable growing, organic gardening, cultivation , hybridizing , propagation, lawn care, tree care, pruning , pest management, container gardening and landscape design and other garden related subjects.

Master Gardeners may choose to share their garden knowledge by giving workshops or presentations at places like, local garden clubs, schools, or senior's residences.

Some of our members write articles for garden publications, newspapers or the Atlantic Master Gardener Association website. Master Gardener's often organise or work in community gardens in neighborhoods, schools, nursing homes or hospitals.

Research and preparation time to write an article or give a presentation or workshop also counts towards volunteer time.

Time spent working on committees or serving on boards for garden related activities also counts towards volunteer time. This could be as an executive member of the AMGA, a local garden club, a garden tour fund raiser or an any other garden related association.

The above list covers only some examples types of volunteer activities. There are many more and too many to name.

What does not count?

Some examples of things that do not count towards volunteer time are:

One on one time spent helping a neighbor with their garden, or answering a friend's garden questions do not count as volunteer time.

Time spent attending a garden show, a public garden ,a garden club plant sale or a garden meeting are not considered volunteer time .

Travel time to attend a garden event, a course on gardening, or a club meeting, does not count unless you are going as a speaker.

What about Education?

Continuing education is an important part of being a Certified Master Gardener. Once a Master Gardener is Certified they are required to take at least 8 hours of additional education every two years.

What counts as education?

Here are some examples:

Attend a lecture on a horticultural related subject, sponsored by someone such as a garden club, a nursery or a botanical garden counts as education. The date, place, speaker and topic must be recorded on your timesheet.

Attend summer school classes sponsored by the AMGA . This counts as 4 educational hours per day.

Attend NSAGC convention. This counts as 4 educational hours.

Attend a lecture at a local community college or university.