

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Livingston County

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ccelivingstoncounty.org

## Master Gardener Volunteer Description

### What is a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer?

In New York State the Master Gardener Program is a volunteer service program not a course or certificate.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) programs are managed individually by county CCE associations. Volunteer training occurs at different intervals for each county. Counties select volunteers as needed through an application process from their pool of residents of that county. It is rare that a county will select an applicant from another county.

Core horticulture training is the first requirement of the CCE Master Gardener Volunteer commitment, followed by an agreement to volunteer at the host county for one or more years for a specific number of hours. Once you stop volunteering you are no longer a Master Gardener as it is not a certificate program.

### Volunteer's Responsibilities:

- Participate actively in training sessions.
- Provide reliable, unbiased information always representing both sides of an issue.
- Promote involvement in Cooperative Extension.

### Assists with any or all of the following:

- Garden maintenance, planting, and/or development
- Classes/special activities as they arrive

### Volunteer's Qualifications

- Basic interest in gardening
- Enthusiasm and interest in helping people
- Belief in the value of Extension's educational programs

### Available Training & Resources:

- Master Gardener classes
- Horticultural Library
- Consultation with Extension staff

### Time Commitment:

- 80 hours of volunteer work with CCE over two-year period (50 hours in Year 1; 30 hours in Year 2).
- Volunteer activities are somewhat flexible. After your initial 80 hours (two-year period), you may continue as a Master Gardener by signing a statement that you'll give 25+ hours of volunteer time over coming year back to CCE. Involvement is at discretion of participant (to participate in classes/workshops you must volunteer for equal number of hours.)
- Each Volunteer is expected to maintain records of program contacts, recommendations, and time devoted to volunteering,

### Benefits:

- Participate in training programs in all aspects of basic horticulture. Learn new skills and sharpen old ones.
- Meet and work with other individuals interested in horticulture.
- Receive basic program materials.

### Level of Background Screening Required: Contact Ken Estes at 585-991-5446 or [kge7@cornell.edu](mailto:kge7@cornell.edu).

- **Reference Check** – References provided by you on your application will be contacted
- **Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Check** – Enrolled Volunteer responsibilities may involve transportation of others and/or the use of Cornell Cooperative Extension vehicles
- **Criminal Background Check** – Enrolled Volunteer responsibilities may include unsupervised work with minors, individuals over 65, or individuals with disabilities

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*Cornell Cooperative Extension of Livingston County is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal employment and program opportunities.*