

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY UC MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION

09/2014

Title: University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener (San Joaquin County)

Purpose: Volunteer service that extends Cooperative Extension's educational programs in the area of home horticulture and gardening.

Brief Description of the Position:

- A Master Gardener is a non-paid staff member of the University of California Cooperative Extension who answers questions, diagnoses plant problems, and gives horticultural assistance to the public via telephone, plant clinics, demonstrations, talks, and the mass media on vegetable gardening, trees, pesticides, soils, lawns, diseases, insects (home and garden), house plants, and related topics. Pesticide recommendations must be those of the University of California.
- Cooperates with and assists the County Cooperative Extension staff.
- Helps to prepare for, organize, and conduct specific educational activities.
- Assists in the administration of the Master Gardener program.

Requirements:

- Will complete a 19-week training program in plant science and horticulture and pass a written exam by 70%.
- Will attend meetings held at UCCE office the third Wednesday evening of each month and will submit monthly records of volunteer activities and contacts.
- Will volunteer a minimum of 50 hours of time within one year of certification in activities that support Cooperative Extension's educational programs in home horticulture and are approved by the advisor. Thereafter, to remain a Master Gardener, will give 25 hours of volunteer time and will continue to complete 12 hours of continuing education each year.
- Must be able to schedule time so as to be available to do the kinds of volunteer work listed in the Volunteer Activities Descriptions.
- Can effectively communicate with the public by telephone, personal contact, and/or group contact and through written language.
- Is a self-starter and completes assigned tasks. Enjoys and works well with all types of people.
- In all activities for which hours are reported as Master Gardener time, will represent themselves as a Master Gardener either by listing themselves as such in written materials or by wearing their badge or introducing themselves as a Master Gardener.
- Will not use the Master Gardener title for commercial purposes or monetary gain.

Supervision:

- The Master Gardener Program Coordinator provides supervision and support to the volunteer Master Gardeners.
- The Coordinator will assign, review, and assess work.
- The Coordinator will provide for in-service training based upon needs of the Master Gardener.
- The Coordinator will provide for office space, telephone, and other needed supplies and support.