

LOUISIANA MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

LSU AgCenter – Tangipahoa Parish
Cooperative Extension Service
Mailing address: PO Box 848
Physical address: 305 E. Oak St.
Amite, LA 70422
985-748-9381

LSU AgCenter – Washington Parish
Cooperative Extension Service
1104-B Bene St.
Franklinton, LA 70438
985-839-7855

Dear potential Louisiana Master Gardener program applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Louisiana Master Gardener program, a volunteer program of LSU AgCenter. Louisiana Master Gardeners help the LSU AgCenter provide research-based horticultural education to the public.

Participation in the program begins with 40 or more hours of training, typically held over fourteen class periods and one or more field trips. After successful completion of the coursework and an end-of-course exam, participants become Louisiana Master Gardener (LMG) Apprentices and have one year to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service. Following fulfillment of the volunteer service requirement, LMG Apprentices become Certified Louisiana Master Gardeners. After that, continuation as a Certified LMG requires 20 hours of volunteer service and 6 hours of continuing education per year.

Some topics covered during training include botany, plant propagation, soil science and fertilizers, vegetables, fruits and nuts, ornamental plants, lawns, plant diseases, plant insects, weeds, and pesticides.

Volunteer opportunities include a variety of ways of providing research-based horticultural education to home, school, and community gardeners. Some examples of possible volunteer opportunities are as follows:

- Giving presentations/demonstrations for civic or school groups
- Distributing LSU AgCenter publications at events, such as farmers markets and community festivals
- Working in demonstration gardens
- Assisting with school or community garden projects
- Assisting with LSU AgCenter horticulture education events

Volunteer opportunities are not limited to the examples mentioned above but can include other ways of reaching the public with non-biased, research-based horticultural information.

If you are interested in participating in the Louisiana Master Gardener program in Tangipahoa or Washington Parishes, please complete this application and return it to me (MHFerguson@agcenter.lsu.edu) or to one of the addresses shown at the top of this page. The holding of a class will depend in part on the number of applicants who have expressed interest.

You can expect a response within two weeks of our receipt of this application. If you do not receive a response within two weeks, or if you have questions, please e-mail me or call me at my office in Hammond (985-277-1850).

Sincerely,



Mary Helen Ferguson, Ph.D.
Extension Agent - Horticulture
Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

E-mail Address (Use of e-mail is required.): _____

1. How did you hear about the Master Gardener Program?

2. Why do you want to become a Louisiana Master Gardener?

3. In what areas of horticulture are you especially interested?

4. What are some of your hobbies or talents, other than gardening?

5. After acquiring the skills of the program, how do you see yourself using the knowledge you've gained?

6. Please list any groups, civic organizations, garden activities, or volunteer work in which you have participated, as well as any leadership positions you have held.

| Group or Activity | Type of Work & Leadership Positions | Calendar Years |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

7. What is your current occupation?

8. Please list days and times are you available for Master Gardener volunteer activities? Check all that apply.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Morning | | | | | | |
| Afternoon | | | | | | |
| Evening | | | | | | |

Comments:

9. Check the box next to each group you are willing to work with.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Children – preschool or elementary age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Youth – junior or senior high age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Adults |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior Citizens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Physically Handicapped |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mentally Handicapped |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Limited Income |

10. Check the box next to each volunteer task that you are willing to perform. Keep in mind that you will be trained for specific tasks, if needed.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assisting agent and/or LMGs with educational events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Presenting to community or school groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Creating gardening educational displays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Staffing gardening educational displays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing assistance with school or community gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintaining demonstration gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assisting with 4-H (youth) horticulture activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Planning Master Gardener programs and events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Answering gardening questions at the Extension office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Providing general assistance in the Extension Office (answering phones, copying, filing, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Please list below.) |

11. Please provide any additional information about yourself that may be helpful to you during the selection process for admission to the Louisiana Master Gardener training program.

Acceptance into the Louisiana Master Gardener Training Program is based on your qualifications and the current volunteer needs of the LSU AgCenter. If you are accepted into the program, you will be required to pay a course fee to cover the cost of training materials.

VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

Volunteers are expected to uphold high standards that ensure the safety and well-being of the LSU AgCenter, its staff, volunteers, and clients. Volunteers will uphold all individuals' rights to dignity, self-development, and self-direction. Volunteers will accept supervision and support from Extension professionals while participating in the program. Volunteers will accept the responsibility to positively represent the LSU AgCenter during the tenure and duration of their volunteer engagement. Volunteers will conduct themselves in a courteous, caring, responsible manner with focus on respect, trustworthiness, fairness, and good citizenship. Volunteers are expected to respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines set forth by the LSU AgCenter and any programs that they are specifically assigned to. Volunteers should not commit unlawful acts and are expected to comply with equal opportunity and antidiscrimination laws. Volunteers will operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment, when applicable, in a responsible and safe manner. Volunteers are expected to perform their duties in a responsible and timely manner. A background check and signing of a photo/media release form will be required.

Trainees are asked to attend all training sessions and field trips, and attendance or make-up of at least 80% of classes is mandatory. A score of 70% or better on the final exam is required to graduate the course.

The title "Louisiana Master Gardener" is not to be used for any commercial purposes, and your name badge can only be worn when performing LSU AgCenter activities.

I have read and understand the above guidelines and Volunteer Code of Conduct. I certify that the information that I have provided in this application is accurate, and I authorize the LSU AgCenter to verify the information. If I am accepted into and enroll in the Master Gardener course, I agree to give 40 hours of volunteer service to the LSU AgCenter within the year following completion of the class.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return the completed application to MHFerguson@agcenter.lsu.edu or to one of the two LSU AgCenter offices listed on this application. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, please contact Mary Helen when you submit your application

This is a voluntary section. You are not required to provide this information, but we hope you will because the information you give will be used to improve the operation of this program, to help the LSU AgCenter design additional opportunities for program participation, and to monitor enforcement of laws that require equal access to this program for eligible persons.

What is your gender? Male Female Prefer Not to State

Please answer BOTH questions below about ethnicity and race. For this form, Hispanic or Latino origins are not races.

Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

What is your race? American Indian or Asian Black or African Native Hawaiian or White
Mark all that apply. Alaska Native American Other Pacific Islander