



Thank you for your interest in Manitowoc County's University of Wisconsin-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training program.

Since its inception in Wisconsin, the Master Gardener Volunteer program has continued to be a premier community service-learning program connecting America's foremost past time-gardening- with volunteer opportunities in the areas we live. In a combination of informal lectures and service-learning activities, participants in the Master Gardener Volunteer program have the opportunity to expand their horticultural background, network with like-minded people, and return something to the community.

The mission of the Manitowoc County Master Gardener Association is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension. Level 1 Training will be hosted in Manitowoc County from April 1 through September 23. Level 1 Training will cost \$90 per person. Course fee includes 36 hours of training, shared training manual and your 1 year memberships at the state and local level. Classes will meet every other Wednesday night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the UW Extension Office, 4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc; but there will be some variations due to field trips and hands on training at different gardens.

To successfully earn your Master Gardener Volunteer status, participants must complete a minimum of 36-hours of the initial training, pass the final exam and complete a minimum of 24-hours volunteer service by September 30, 2016. Registration materials (application form, volunteer service agreement and background check form) along with the \$90 registration fee, payable to Master Gardeners of Manitowoc County are due to the UW-Extension office by March 18.

This year, a flipped classroom approach will be used. Students will watch video lectures at home and class will be a time for students to inquire about the lecture content, test their skills in applying knowledge, interact with one another in hands-on activities and go on field trips. Topics include: botany, soils, woody ornamentals, herbaceous ornamentals, entomology, plant pathology, weeds, lawn care, vegetables, fruits and backyard wildlife. Students will need access to the internet to do their before class work, whether they do that at home or at another facility (library, etc.). You will be taught how to find answers to commonly asked gardening questions using the appropriate resources.

Attached you will find an application form, volunteer service agreement and background check form. Please complete and return all forms to the UW-Extension Office, Attention Master Gardeners, 4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI 54220; along with a check or money order for \$90 payable to Master Gardeners of Manitowoc County. Payment will be held until acceptance into the program. All candidates will be screened prior to admittance (felony background check) . You will receive notice of acceptance into the program by phone call the end of March. You will receive a refund if not accepted into the program. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

We look forward to your participation in the Master Gardener Training program!

Sincerely,

Chelle Blaszczyk
President
Manitowoc County Master Gardeners

Marilyn Starzewski
Education Committee Chair
Manitowoc County Master Gardeners

P.S. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chelle (920-686-0213) or Marilyn (920-901-9674).