

OSU Master Gardener Volunteer: Medina County

QUICK FACTS

- Class Fee: **\$250.00** per person
 - Covers MGV Manual, eye loop, badge, all training classes and materials
- **Background check required before classes begin.**
- As an MGV you receive benefits such as: advance training, MGV-exclusive conferences and continuing education, affiliation with The Ohio State University, an opportunity to serve in & better your community.
- New Master Gardener Volunteer Interns are **required to complete 50 volunteer hours** in their first year (intern year) in order to become fully certified members
 - *Volunteer activities include but are not limited to:* presenting educational seminars, speaking at public events, libraries, schools, or OSU extension programs, manning booths at earth day, the fair, answering questions over the hotline in the extension office 10a-1p, consulting with groups needing help with gardening, answering garden questions, and other interactive activities.
 - **Potential volunteers should feel comfortable speaking to groups alone or as a pair.**
 - *Non-speaking volunteer activities are limited, but include:* attending meetings, organizing programs and seminars, developing presentations, flyers, or factsheets, writing news releases and promoting programs, working on Facebook, and otherwise helping to promote and ensure the operation of Master Gardener Program.
- Master Gardener Volunteer Membership Dues are **\$15.00** a year, starting after completing 50 volunteer hours of intern year. \$10 goes to supporting state program, \$5 supports county level program.
- To maintain membership as a Master Gardener Volunteer, volunteers must complete **20 hours of approved volunteerism & 10 hours continuing education** a year for Medina County Extension.
- Continuing education credits are offered by OSU Extension & online. Any horticulture-related program can count such as those held by botanical gardens, arboretums, parks, and garden clubs, etc.
- OSU Master Gardeners are volunteers for OSU Extension in their county. OSU Extension must approve volunteer projects. Projects should support the OSU mission. **ALL OSU rules and policies apply.**
- Volunteer hours need to be diverse with no one project accounting for all 20 hours.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers are LEADERS, NOT WEEDERS.** We do not expect Master Gardeners to be free gardener labor. Volunteers are trained to be educated experts who can offer assistance to the public on horticulture and gardening topics. Volunteers may participate in starting garden demo plots or gardens, conducting demonstrations in gardens, and other hands-on activities, but should never feel obligated to maintain, weed, water, plant or otherwise “operate” individual gardens as part of their volunteer work. Maintaining other organizations' gardens does not count as OSU volunteer work.
- Master Gardener Volunteers **MUST PRESENT UNBIAS, RESEARCH-BASED HORTICULTURAL INFORMATION.** MGVs must not instill their own opinions into programming. Master Gardener Volunteers must give unbiased, research-based information on all available options, and then let the public make their own decision about the topic at hand. Showing blatant bias or preferential treatment to a product or method is grounds for warning & then dismissal. Work with your volunteer coordinator to ensure you are presenting appropriate information.