

Cherokee County Master Gardener Training Application



The Texas Master Gardener Program

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer development program of Texas AgriLife Extension. These Master volunteers receive in-depth horticultural training. In return, they provide volunteer service through Extension by delivering horticultural and environmental education and projects to their communities. Program participants should be able to communicate with the public by telephone, personal contact, as a speaker or through written correspondence.

A trainee receives a minimum of 50 hours of instruction and completes an examination to gain the title of "Master Gardener Intern." Interns have one calendar year from course completion to contribute 50 hours of volunteer service in Extension initiated projects in Cherokee County. Participants then become a Certified Texas Master Gardener for 1 year, after which time he/she maintains certification as a Master Gardener through annual service of 12 volunteer hours and each year acquires 6 hours of continuing education. The volunteer aspect of the Master Gardener program allows individuals to dedicate their time and talents to educate, enhance, and beautify their local community utilizing the science and art of horticulture.

2020 MASTER GARDENER CLASS APPLICATION

Classes will be conducted predominately on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Annex building in Rusk, from approximately 9:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Some classes will be in satellite locations such as SFA and Overton. Please see the schedule for details. Classes will begin January 9, 2020 and end March 24, 2020 (barring any addition due to weather days.)

A fee of \$110.00 is charged for training materials and is payable in full at the first class meeting (make check payable to Cherokee County Master Gardeners). *NOTE: A background check is required on all applicants participating in the Master Gardeners program. The fee for this service is part of your registration fee.*

I would like to serve as a Master Gardener Volunteer in Cherokee County. I understand that Master Gardeners are trained volunteers and community educators, who share their horticultural knowledge and gardening experience with their fellow citizens. In order to complete certification:

- I will volunteer a minimum of 50 hours in Extension initiated education programs in 2020-21.
- I will complete the classroom training course including an exam.
- I understand to recertify annually, I must volunteer a minimum of 12 hours in approved Cherokee County Master Gardener Extension initiated programs, plus 6 hours of continuing education.
- I agree to a background check (required of all Texas AgriLife Extension volunteers)

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant's Name: (please print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

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Email: _____

Will you be able to complete at least 50 or more volunteer hours? Yes _____ No _____

When are you most likely to be available to volunteer for projects?

Monday – Friday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Saturday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening

The Cherokee County Master Gardeners are involved in a wide range of projects. Please mark your degree of interest in these programs. Indicate **1** (low) thru **5** (high).

_____ Answering telephone	_____ Photography & History
_____ Environmental Programs	_____ Demonstration Gardens
_____ Fund Raising	_____ Water Conservation Programs
_____ Clerical Work	_____ Developing Displays
_____ Landscaping & Restoration	_____ Youth Garden Programs
_____ Computer Work	_____ Educational presentation
_____ Newsletter & Publication	_____ Other, please explain below
_____ Community Events	

YOUR GARDENING EXPERIENCE (Answer all questions as completely as possible):

1. Total years of gardening experience _____

2. Years of gardening in Cherokee County _____

Areas of experience and training: (circle all that are applicable)

Propagation:	Seeding	Cuttings	Other _____
Container Gardening:	Yes	No	
Soils:	Yes	No	
Trees:	Yes	No	
Turf:	Yes	No	
Other:	_____		

Have you grown:

	Yes	No	What?
Bulbs	Yes	No	_____
Vegetables	Yes	No	_____
Roses	Yes	No	_____
Herbs	Yes	No	_____
Perennials	Yes	No	_____
Fruit	Yes	No	_____
Nut	Yes	No	_____
Annuals	Yes	No	_____
Tropicals	Yes	No	_____

Plant(s) or areas of special interest and experience:

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Related areas of expertise and/or a “working” knowledge (ie, plant pathology, composting, rainwater harvesting, entomology, native plants, birds, butterflies, etc.):

What special talents or skills do you have (Computer Skills, Photography, Writing, Art, Public Speaking/Teaching, Grant Writing, Fund Raising, speak a second language, love working with children, etc.):

What is your experience with volunteer or community organizations?

For how long? _____

Why are you interested in the Master Gardener’s Program?

I understand that the Master Gardener program is a program sponsored by the Cherokee County office of Texas AgriLife Extension. Furthermore, that the Cherokee County Master Gardener Association is a nonprofit (501C3) educational service organization of volunteers trained in horticulture, landscaping, soil improvement, water conservation and other subjects of importance to Texas gardeners. I understand that Texas AgriLife Extension coordinates Master Gardeners who provide leadership to this association while providing a variety of educational programs in conjunction with the Cherokee County office of Texas AgriLife Extension.

I understand that as a Certified Texas Master Gardener, I represent the following organizations – Cherokee County, the Cherokee County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and will adhere to their policies and guidelines.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For questions, please call Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at (903) 683-5416 and ask for Kim Benton.

Individuals with a disability needing an accommodation should contact the Extension office, 903-683-5416, at least 7 days in advance so that we can best be prepared help. .

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Volunteer Application Form

And consent for criminal background history check authorization/waiver

To be completed by Extension program volunteers (EFNEP, BLT, etc.) and Master Volunteers only.

4-H volunteers must register online via 4-H CONNECT or by completing the 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-I.056)

Please print:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. APPLICANT'S FULL, LEGAL NAME _____ | 2. COUNTY _____ |
| 3. ADDRESS _____ | 4. CITY _____ ZIP _____ |
| 5. FIRST 5 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____ | 6. DATE OF BIRTH _____/_____/_____ |
| 7. DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER (optional) _____ | 8. GENDER (circle one) Male / Female |
| 9. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity? Yes / No
RACE (circle one) White / Black / Asian / American Indian
Alaskan Native / Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander | 10. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AREA _____ |

Previously Screened

11. I verify that I have been previously screened including a criminal background check and PASSED. Yes No
- If yes, by who? _____ When (Year): _____
- For what purpose? _____
- Did you pass? If not, what restrictions were imposed? _____
- If you have been screened and passed a criminal background check through an Extension-approved entity, a letter/proof must be submitted.

Please sign at the bottom of the form.

12. I hereby authorize VeriFYI and/or its Service Provider and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to request and receive any and all background information about or concerning me, including, but not limited to, my Criminal History, Driving Record, Employment History, Military Background, Civil Listings, Educational Background, Professional License from any Individual, Corporation, Partnership, Law Enforcement Agency, and other entities including my Present and Past Employers. I authorize the Texas AgriLife Extension Service or any of its components to make reference checks relating to my volunteer service. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility as a volunteer/employee with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.
- The criminal history, as received from the reporting agencies, may include arrest and conviction data, as well as plea bargains and deferred adjudications and delinquent conduct committed as a juvenile. I understand that this information will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for an employment/volunteer position with this organization. I also understand that as long as I remain an employee or volunteer here, the criminal history check may be repeated at any time. I understand that I will have an opportunity to review the criminal history as received by client/agency and a procedure is available for clarification, if I dispute the record as received. I also understand that the criminal history could contain information presumed to be expunged.
- I further release and discharge VeriFYI and their Service Provider and all of their Subsidiaries, Affiliates, Officers, Employees, Contract Personnel, or Associates, from any and all claims and liability arising out of any request for information or records pursuant to this authorization and/or procurement of an investigative consumer report and understand that it may contain information about my character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living, whichever are applicable.
- I understand that I have the right to make written request within a reasonable period of time to VeriFYI for additional information concerning the nature and scope of the investigation. I acknowledge that I have voluntarily provided the above information for employment/volunteer purposes, and I have carefully read and understand this authorization.

13. Date _____

14. Applicant's Signature _____

Volunteer Application Form Instructions

1. Applicant's Printed Name – Complete with first name, middle name and last name.
2. County – Complete with the county name in which you are applying to be a volunteer.
- 3/4. Address – Complete with your current mailing address, city and zip code.
5. Social Security Number – Complete with at least the **first five** digits of the social security number. The social security number is an individual descriptor that enables the system to complete a national criminal search of 47 jurisdictions.
6. Date of Birth – Complete with the month, day and year of birth.
7. Driver's License Number – Complete with current driver's license number and state. Although optional, this helps affirm your identity during a background check.
8. Gender – Complete by circling one of the options.
9. Race – Complete the race and ethnicity section by circling the answers that apply. This field is optional; however, it is very important in confirming accurate identity.
10. Volunteer Program Area – Complete with the program area you are volunteering for (e.g., Better Living for Texans, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, Master Wellness Volunteer).
**4-H volunteers should complete the Texas 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-1.056).*
11. Previously Screened – Texas AgriLife Extension Service will accept prior screenings conducted within the past three years from other entities. The approved list of prior screenings either as an employee or volunteer include: school districts, churches, youth groups/associations (Little League, sports associations, etc.), youth agencies/organizations (Big Brother/Big Sister, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, after school/extended care programs), law enforcement (county, state or federal/prison system), Texas Youth Commission, Department of Defense – Child and Youth Services, Department of Defense – Family Programs, concealed handgun license; and/or licensed childcare workers.
** The minimum requirement is a criminal background check conducted through DPS or a National Criminal Search entity.**
*** Other sources may be considered based on documentation provided with screening criteria and specifics.***
**** Documentation is required for screenings from other entities. This could include a letter of acceptance from the employer or volunteer group, or a letter written from the screening entity to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service stating you have been screened and tested.*
12. Authorization Statement – State agencies screening volunteers are required by legislation to use the Volunteer Center of North Texas. The Volunteer Center contracts with VeriFYI. VeriFYI is a background verification software system that accesses multi-jurisdiction checks utilizing one of the largest private-sector criminal history databases in the nation (180 million records). All information received is held in confidence and not shared at the county level. Criminal record results are shredded when a volunteer's status is determined.
13. Date Completed
14. Applicant's Signature