Tips for Volunteering at Master Gardener In-Person Events

Growing Master Gardeners

Georgia

Renne

Mission Statement

The purpose of the UC Master Gardener Program is to extend to the public research-based information verified by UC experts about home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape.

Our Principles of Community

- Ensure open communication
- Work together to achieve common goals and mutual understandings
- Value the contribution and worth of all members
- Appreciate and celebrate differences and diversity
- Foster a sense of belonging and emotional safety
- Practice mutual respect
- Demonstrate ethics and integrity
- Invest in all members
- Recognize that all members are important

Our Principles of Community

- Remember to use these when volunteering at events for:

❖ **Interacting with fellow Master Gardeners**

❖ **Interacting with members of our community**

Volunteering for Event

- Review posting of event on VMS

- What project is this event for?

- Volunteer for other events for a particular project: under Calendar, **"Select Project"**; show all events on month for project

- Find all events for which you have volunteered: under Calendar, select **"My Events"**

- Review names of other Master Gardeners who are volunteering

Volunteering for Event

- You will receive confirmation email showing you volunteered for event

- At bottom of this confirmation, select "Attached is the iCalendar export for you to import into your calendar"

- Remember to **"Unvolunteer"** if you find you cannot attend

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Prior to Arriving at "In Person" Event

- Review posting of event on VMS

- Reread description of event

- Note day, date, and **time to report**

- Note place of event; see address and map

- Remember Event Coordinator's name

- Note particular information for event

(*Required: Water, Name Tags, Closed Toe Shoes*)

- **Unvolunteer**; contact coordinator for questions

Prior to Arriving at "In Person" Event

- Remember "in person" events are our biggest opportunity to connect with each other and learn even more

- Build your own gardening repertoire!

- **Social interaction** is new to all of us!

- Build our own Master Gardener network

- Connect with our visitors through common gardening interests and new information

Arrival at "In Person Event"

- Be on time or early!

- Introduce yourself to fellow Master Gardeners

- Find the Event Coordinator

- Ask what you need to do

- Help set up

- **Familiarize** yourself with all materials at the table or area and know how to use

- Sign in if needed

Volunteering at "In Person Event"

- Carefully observe fellow Master Gardeners and what they do

- Carefully listen to fellow Master Gardeners and what they say

- Remember you are the face of Master Gardeners as you interact with everyone

- Station yourself at the table/booth so you can observe new visitors approaching

- Be ready to greet them!

Volunteering at "In Person Event"

- Introduce yourself as a Master Gardener and ask how to help

- Listen carefully to questions visitors have

- Ask questions for further clarification

- Ask fellow Master Gardeners for help in responding

- It's okay to not know the answer!

- Provide materials you have available

- Ask if visitor wants to receive the eBlast

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Volunteering at "In Person Event"

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- Listen carefully to questions visitors have

- Ask questions for further clarification

- Ask fellow Master Gardeners for help in responding

- It's okay to not know the answer!

- Provide materials you have available

- Ask if visitor wants to receive our monthly eBlast

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Volunteering at "In Person Event"

- Enjoy your time!

- At the end of your shift or event ask how you can help

- Collect materials and signage

- Collect all trash

- Say good bye to fellow Master Gardeners!

- Thank the event coordinator!

- On your calendar (phone) note the number of hours you volunteered

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Discussion
(unmute/respond or type in Chat)

- What did you learn today that's new?

- What do you still want to know?

- How can we make these events more successful for visitors?

- How can we make these events more successful for Master Gardeners?

- When you participated in in-person events, what was something important you learned?

Your participation helps us grow our Master Gardener Program for Riverside County!