

How to become a UC Master Gardener of Napa County volunteer:

To become a UC Master Gardener of Napa County volunteer you must apply. To receive an application attend one informational meeting. Qualified applicants are interviewed and accepted based on program needs. Once accepted, you will attend an 88-hour training program in January, February and March. Once you complete training, pass the final exam, sign the agreement forms, and clear the fingerprint DOJ screening, you will become a certified UC Master Gardener.

Once certified, you must complete the first year volunteer hours and continuing education units to continue in the program. You must re-certify each year after to remain active in the program as a certified volunteer.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Attend one informational meeting in mid-summer to receive your application.
- Submit your completed application by the due date to the UC Cooperative Extension office.
- Qualified applicants are interviewed and selected based on program needs.
- Applicants will be notified of acceptance or not by mail in October.
- Applicants (interns) accepted will attend a welcome and tech review meeting in November. Interns will meet their mentors and class mates. At this meeting you will pay your class fee of \$250 and receive your books and assignments. There are a limited number of confidential partial scholarships available through the UCCE Director c/o Priscilla O'Connor at the UCCE office.

CLASSES AND FIELD TRIP

- Classes begin in January and run through March.
- Classes meet every Tuesday, 8:30 am – 5 pm.
- There are weekly reading and homework assignments to prepare for classroom activities.
- There are weekly quizzes and a take home final.
- There is a required group project due the last week of classes.
- There is a one-day field trip held on a Thursday in February or March.

CLASS MATERIAL

The main text we use is from the *California Master Gardener Handbook*. Supplemental texts are included from the series of Integrated Pest Management books from UC ANR Publications.

The speakers for the classes include UC advisors and specialists, local experts, guests from UC Davis and experienced Master Gardeners.

You become a certified UC Master Gardener volunteer after completing the classes, the project assignment, and passing the final exam. You then graduate into our program and begin volunteering in March.

VOLUNTEERING

For the first year as a UC Master Gardener of Napa County (UCMG) volunteer you are required to do at least:

- 21 hours at the office help desk (by December of your graduation year)
- 30 hours of other general volunteering including some direct outreach
- 12 hours of Continuing Education (CE)

Note: CE hours are obtained by attending at least 6 of the monthly seminars held the last Thursday of the month except in November. In November, the seminar is the third Thursday, and there is no seminar in December.

Volunteer and CE hours must be completed and entered into our online volunteer website by June of the year after you have trained.

RECERTIFICATION

To maintain your certification as an active UCMG volunteer in subsequent years you must volunteer at least 25 hours of general volunteering, a portion of that focused on direct public outreach, and at least 12 hours of CE.

These CE units may be obtained by attending monthly seminars or other approved UC Master Gardener CE events.

All of your hours must be completed and entered into our online system by June 30 of the activity year to be credited. After your hours are recorded, and your 3 volunteer agreements are submitted, you may be re-certified as a UCMG volunteer by the County Director.