Dear Gardening Enthusiast,

We are happy that you are interested in becoming an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer with the University of Missouri Extension. A volunteer application for Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City is enclosed with this letter. It is also available at the MGGKC website - www.mggkc.org.

The mission of the Master Gardener Volunteer Program is educational outreach and sharing research-based horticulture information from the University of Missouri and other research-based sources with the public. We recommend visiting the Master Gardener volunteer website at www.mggkc.org before you fill out the application to learn more about MU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and some of the volunteer opportunities. All applicants must be a minimum of 16 years old. Horticulture knowledge and skills are not required to become a Master Gardener.

Important points that you should know:

- **Application Due Date:** If you are interested in applying, please complete the application and necessary paperwork and return to Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City, University of Missouri Extension, 1600 NE Coronado Drive, Blue Springs, MO 64014 by June 17, 2019, by 4:30 pm. A non-refundable $10.00 application fee, payable to University of Missouri Extension, must accompany your application. Please make a copy of your completed application for your records. We will accept applications this year on a first come first served basis. Class size is limited to 40.

- **Information Sessions:** YOU MUST ATTEND ONE of the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Information Sessions:
  
  Tuesday, June 25, 6:30pm to 8pm, River Market MU Extension Office, 105 E. 5th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106
  Or
  Saturday, July 13, 10:00am to 11:30am, Southeast Community Center, 4201 E. 63rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64130

- University of Missouri Extension Horticulture Educator Cathy Bylinowski will talk about Master Gardener Program requirements. Experienced Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer questions. After attending an Information Session, you will have the opportunity to commit to training, sign appropriate documents, and pay the training fee of $175. You may also take more time to make your decision.

- **Trainee Get Together:** Applicants are invited to an informal Meet and Greet gathering on August 10, 2019, 10am to 11:30am, at the South East Community Center, 4201 E 63rd St, Kansas City, MO 64130. This is an opportunity to meet University of Missouri Extension faculty and experienced Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City. It is also a chance to meet your fellow classmates and determine carpooling arrangements, if desired.

- **Training:** Classroom training, the first part of becoming a Master Gardener, will begin Saturday, August 17, 2019. We will meet on Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:15 pm, with a 45-minute lunch break, and a second class from 1pm - 4pm, ending in mid-October. The majority of the classes are at the Southeast Community Center, Kansas City, MO. There will be one session at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center and one session at Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council Building, KCMO.
MU Extension Specialists and other experts will teach the classes. Classes will cover a broad range of horticultural topics. There will be three take-home quizzes. A research project presented in the form of a 5-minute presentation, a short, research-based report, or a group project are required prior to graduation.

**Attendance:** **Attendance at all classes is essential.** We handle absences on an individual basis. Please let us know if you will be absent. All missed classes need to be made up. If you miss more than two sessions (4 classes), you will not be able to graduate from the Master Gardener Program and will need to reapply the following year.

**Training Fee:** Please pay the training fee of $175 after acceptance into the program. **Training fees are due by August 10, 2019.** The fee will cover Master Gardener state registration, MU Extension Master Gardener Core Manual and other supplies. **Please see the last page for scholarship information.**

If you are interested in personal enrichment and education only and do not plan on volunteering, the training costs $350. We accept a limited number of personal enrichment and education applicants every year.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Requirements:** A minimum of 45 volunteer hours must be completed prior to December 31, 2020 to become a Certified Master Gardener. Here are your volunteer service requirements for Year One:

- 9 hours for the Master Gardener Hotline,
- 12 hours for any Master Gardener approved community or demonstration garden,
- 6 hours to the Master Gardener Plant Sale or Garden Tour, and
- 18 hours or more for any other MG approved project/activity.

After the first year, to maintain active status, Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City volunteers provide a minimum of 25 volunteer hours in approved activities and attend a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education each year. Please ask questions during the information sessions and the orientation events so that you fully understand the Extension Master Gardener volunteer hour requirements.

The full price for in-person Master Gardener training is $350. If you do not fulfill 45 hours of volunteer service after training, you will receive a request to pay the remaining $175 owed. **The reduced price is only available to those who agree to fulfill the volunteer requirements.**

Thank you for your interest in the MU Extension Master Gardener Training. We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or visit the Master Gardener website.

Sincerely,

**Cathy Bylinowski, Horticulture Educator**

University of Missouri Extension
1600 NE Coronado Drive
Blue Springs, MO 64014
816-252-5051
bylinowskic@missouri.edu

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2019 Master Gardener of Greater Kansas City (MGGKC) Application

We are pleased that you are interested in Master Gardener Training and in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer! Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. Please visit www.mggkc.org to learn about the program and volunteer opportunities.

Please print contact information clearly and respond to the questions as thoroughly as possible.

Name: ______________________________________________________________          Date: ____________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: Day __________________ Evening __________________ Cell __________________

Do you have access and use e-mail/internet? __________ E-mail address: ________________________________

1. Briefly describe your interests, experience, and/or training in gardening and/or horticulture.

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. How did you hear about the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City (MGGKC)?

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___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Have you had a chance to attend an MGGKC function (Gardener’s Gathering, Plant Sale, Garden Tour or other), or visit our website, www.mggkc.org?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Gardeners also continue to educate themselves and to enjoy volunteering together. What continuing education topics in gardening and horticulture interest you?

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___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Application Deadline: June 17, 2019 by 4:30 pm
5. MGGKC is a chapter of Missouri Master Gardeners under the auspices of the University of Missouri Extension. Our motto is “helping others learn to grow.” Public education, in many formats, is one of the focuses of MGGKC. Please check the public education volunteer opportunities that interest you:

___ Staffing Gardeners Hotline/Answer Line

___ Joining MGGKC Speakers Bureau

___ Producing Educational Gardening Videos

___ Gardening workshops with children

___ Staffing information tables at special events such as festivals, farmers markets, and parent student events at local schools

___ Gardening activities with Senior Citizens

___ Organizing and presenting informal workshops, demonstrations, and tours at Master Gardener approved garden projects

6. You are required to attend an information session before training starts. MGGKC Volunteer trainees in 2019 need to attend and complete 8 sessions (2 classes per session) of course work. (See ‘Dear Garden Enthusiast letter’ that came with this application.) You will receive more details about the coursework/training at this information session. Do you have any questions or concerns about completing the coursework/training?

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

7. Have you had the opportunity to be involved in other volunteer or leadership activities? Please briefly describe your experiences.

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

8. Is there anything else that you would like to share about your prior experience as a volunteer or ask about Master Gardener Training?

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________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________
2018 Master Gardener of Greater Kansas City (MGGKC) Volunteer Statement

Please consider me for the Master Gardener training and volunteer program. If accepted, I will:

1. Attend the 8-week training program (Aug–Oct.). I understand that only two absences (four classes) are allowed. I need to make up missed classes. If I miss more than two sessions/ four classes, I will not graduate. I will need to reapply next year to complete Master Gardener training.

2. To become a Certified Master Gardener, I will provide 45 volunteer hours to the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City chapter within 12 months of graduating from the training program. Volunteer hours include:
   
   - a required 3 hour Master Gardener Hotline orientation and a minimum of 6 hours with the MGGKC Hotline,
   - 12 hours with MGGKC approved community or demonstration gardens,
   - 6 hours with the MGGKC plant sale and/or MGGKC garden tour,
   - 18 volunteer hours with MGGKC approved projects/activities.
   - Continuing Education- No requirement for interns (first year Master Gardeners) but all are encouraged to attend Continuing Education functions.

3. I understand that to maintain my certification as a Master Gardener, I will provide 25 volunteer hours and 6 Continuing Education hours per year during years 2-10.

Signed: _______________________________________________________________ Date________________

Please enclose this form with the application and application fee.

If you have any questions about the Master Gardener Program, please contact:

Cathy Bylinowski, Horticulture Educator

University of Missouri Extension

bylinowskic@missouri.edu

816-252-5051 office

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Master Gardener Volunteer Training Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available, based on financial need and a willingness to volunteer. Scholarship requests are due by June 17, 2019, 4:30 pm.

1. How will a scholarship help you attend Master Gardening Training?

____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

2. How do you hope to share gardening information with the community?

____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Please submit your scholarship request with your application. Send or email it to:

Cathy Bylinowski, Horticulture Educator
University of Missouri Extension
1600 NE Coronado Drive
Blue Spring, MO 64014
bylinowskc@missouri.edu, 816-252-5051

Contact Cathy Bylinowski, 816-252-5051, if you have any questions or need more information.

Thanks for your interest in becoming a University of Missouri Extension Master Gardener Volunteer!