



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Ohio State University Extension

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To: Individuals with an interest in the 2020 Warren County New Master Gardener Training

From: Greg Meyer
Ohio State University Extension Educator, Warren County
Warren County Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

Thank you for your interest in the program.

OSU Extension in Warren County is planning to hold a training for new Master Gardener Volunteers in the fall of 2020. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Warren County Extension meeting room at 320 E. Silver Street in Lebanon, Ohio. Classes will start September 9, 2020 and will end on November 4, 2020. There will be no class held on September 23, 2020 due to the Farm Science Review. Attendance at all meetings is required, with only one excused absence permissible to graduate the class. A mandatory orientation meeting will be held on August 19, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The cost of the class is \$250. A non-refundable \$50 deposit is required with the application. The remaining balance will be due at the orientation meeting. You must fully complete the application to be considered for this training and a background check will eventually be required. Do not get a background check prior to the orientation meeting, because there will be special instructions required.

The mission of Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteers is to educate others with timely research-based information. Although we do have social activities, we are not a social organization, we are an educational organization. During the training, you will receive approximately 50 hours of training in horticulture on topics related soils, botany, pests, diseases and growing plants. After completion of the class, you are expected to give 50 hours of volunteer commitment on approved Master Gardener projects related to educating the public. If you complete both the class and initial volunteer commitment, then you will become an active Master Gardener Volunteer. To continue on in the program, you must pay your dues and complete at least 20 hours of volunteer time and 10 hours of continuing education each year. Because you are an Ohio State University Extension volunteer, there is also paperwork and training that must be completed each year to remain a volunteer in good standing.

As mentioned above, your volunteer time must be spent on approved Master Gardener Volunteer projects. Every county is not the same. In Warren County, we have demonstration gardens, multiple school gardens with activities for children and our speaker's bureau. We also host a winter horticulture series for the general public that has some opportunities for volunteer time. Your hours will need to be completed on one of those projects, if you want to be a Warren County MG volunteer. We realize that everyone has different strengths and you can find your niche in our projects. If you like to speak to people and teach, then we have opportunities. If you just want to get your hands dirty and garden, we also have a place for you.

Because I bring people in from all over the state to teach the classes, we need to achieve a minimum class size in order to hold the training. At least 20 people must sign-up for the class prior to the deadline and at least 12 people must be Warren County residents. We will train people from other counties, but priority will be given to Warren County residents should the class reach capacity. A maximum of 32 people will be accepted for the 2020 class. The deadline to complete your application and pay your deposit is August 12, 2020.