

## Pima County Master Gardener 2023 Application

Hello and thank you for your interest in becoming a Pima County Master Gardener. Please read the following information about our program before you apply. Please understand that due to demand and our class size restrictions that not all applicants will be selected to become Master Gardeners. The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities.

Master Gardeners are volunteers who work with Cooperative Extension offices throughout the United States. Each state's land grant university oversees the Master Gardener program in that state. Here in Arizona, the Pima County Cooperative Extension (PCCE) and the Master Gardener program are part of the University of Arizona, which is Arizona's land grant university. There are currently approximately 150 active Certified Master Gardener volunteers here in Pima County.

Mission statement: Pima County Master Gardener volunteers, directed and supported by University of Arizona faculty and staff, educate residents by providing unbiased research-based horticulture practices and information that promote the development of healthy, sustainable communities.

Applicants selected to become Certified Master Gardeners complete approximately 60 hours of classroom training beginning the 1st week of August and continuing until the second week of December. Classes will be in-person on site. Zoom meetings may be required but our preference is to hold these meetings in-person. Once the classroom training is successfully completed, the intern period begins. The intern period is for you to gain more hands-on experience and mentoring from other Master Gardeners. You will need to complete 50 hours of volunteer service before becoming a Certified Master Gardener.

To maintain Certified Master Gardener status, each volunteer must participate in 50 hours of approved service activities and complete 10 hours of continuing education training annually.

One of the most meaningful outreach activities the Pima County Master Gardener program offers is the speaking team. Master Gardeners present landscape and gardening programs throughout Pima County, giving talks to various civic groups and community gardens. Library talks are usually given from October through April at several libraries throughout Pima County, and we also offer these presentations via Zoom on a year-round basis. The speaking team also holds paid seminars and will give presentations with our community partners.

The Plant Clinic is another meaningful outreach effort. Plant Clinic volunteers answer landscape and gardening questions from the public. The Plant Clinic is mostly conducted online but we do offer an in-person clinic with limited hours during the week.

Master Gardeners also maintain the 1-acre demonstration garden on site at the Pima County Extension Office. Garden committees work on Thursday mornings throughout the year. These gardens are used for teaching purposes as well as showing the community best practices in local gardening. We also propagate plants for our two plant sales that help support our program.

After learning more about our program and the commitment volunteers make if you are still interested in applying, please select one of the following options. **"Apply Online"** or **"Download the Application"** and either email your completed application to [celestegambill@arizona.edu](mailto:celestegambill@arizona.edu) or mail it to: Master Gardener Training, Pima County Cooperative Extension, 4210 N. Campbell Ave. Tucson AZ 85719 before the April 28<sup>th</sup> Deadline.

## Pima Country Master Gardener Application

Please have your application submitted before the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, deadline.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (Required): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read page 1 of this application and understand the Master Gardener Volunteer commitments and agree to them. Yes/no**

**Which Class are you applying for:**

- Tucson Morning: Every Tuesday morning from 9-12 from August 1 - December 5. \*30 hours of volunteer experience in the demonstration garden are required for certification with this option. The Garden groups meet every Thursday Morning.
- Tucson Evening: Every Wednesday evening from 5:30-8:30 from August 2 - December 6 Evening and weekend volunteer opportunities will be available to accommodate working professionals.

**Why Do You Want to Become a Master Gardener?**

**Gardening Background** (List your interests, experience, and skills related to plants and gardening and/or horticultural training that you may have had.)

**Are You or Have You Been a Docent And/or Volunteer for Any Organization?** If so, please describe your experience.

**Are You Comfortable Speaking with The Public?** (Please describe your experience.)

**Occupation(S):** Are you currently employed? If so, are you full time or part time? Will your schedule allow you to put in the needed class time and volunteer hours? If you are retired, what was your former occupation?

**Do You Speak a Second Language? If so, please list.**

After completing the class, you become an intern the following year to gain more hands-on experience and mentoring from other Master Gardeners. You will need to complete 50 hours of volunteer service. Please check any that you would be available to participate in. Please note the days and times.

- Demonstration Gardens: (If you are taking the morning class there are a **required 30 hours**) Meets every Thursday morning.
- Speaking Team (**required 1 speaking event**) these have day, evening, and weekend hours.
- Working in the Plant Clinic (**required 20 hours**) these have day, evening, and weekend hours.
- Home Consultations (**required 1**) these have day, evening, and weekend hours.
- Plant Sale: (**required**) 2 per year one in April the other in October. They are on a Saturday.
- Home Garden Tour: One Saturday in April
- Farmer's Markets: Saturday mornings
- I will be volunteering in Green Valley. \*The Program Coordinator will reach out to schedule that.

**Are You Available Year-Round for Volunteer Service?**

**Please initial each of the following statements after reading:**

\_\_\_ I agree to an interview with the Program Coordinator and representatives of Master Gardener program and will accept their decision as to my suitability to join the educational program.

**If I Am Accepted as A Trainee, I Will:**

\_\_\_ Be available to attend all classes in the option I am applying for. Tuesday mornings classes from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or Wednesday Evening from 5:30-8:30 (August to mid-December)

\_\_\_ After passing the training course, I will commit to the internship requirements listed in the volunteer service section that I selected.

\_\_\_ Pay the registration fee \$200.00 (payable to: PCCE) which covers the class costs and the cost of reference materials which will become my personal property. \*Financial assistance is available. Please fill out the Financial Assistance Request Form if needed.

\_\_\_ After certification, I will commit to 50 hours of volunteer service as a Master Gardener and 10 hours of continuing education per year to maintain the status of Master Gardener.

\_\_\_ Comply with policies and procedures of the Cooperative Extension and the UA.

\_\_\_ I give permission to the Pima County Cooperative Extension to use and publish photos/videos of myself for educational and promotional purposes.

\_\_\_ I understand that failure to attend the required classes and fulfill the required volunteer hours will result in dismissal from the program and that the \$200 fee is non-refundable.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note**

Applications will be accepted until April 28th, 2023. Applicants who are selected for interviews will be notified and interviewed in May. Notification of acceptance will be given in June. Applicant spots are limited by demand and the number of people we can accommodate in the class.