

Each new EMG is paired with a Mentor to guide them through their first year. If you have questions once you've joined the program, your search for answers should start with your Mentor. You and your mentor will meet at a group get-acquainted breakfast held before classes start. In addition, your Mentor will attend some of your classes with you, and will be by your side during your first two shifts volunteering on the Infoline. You'll always be able to turn to your Mentor (or any other member, for that matter) for support as well as information, whether your questions concern record-keeping or answering consumer questions.

- Want more information?
- Interested in becoming an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer?

**Contact Linda Brandon,
EMG Program Coordinator,
at 375-5876.**

The deadline for applications for classes starting in January each year is October 31.

We hold applications that are received throughout the year, contacting applicants in November to come in for an interview.

We hope to meet you soon!



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North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.



Extension Master Gardeners



**Guilford County
Extension Master Gardener
Volunteer Requirements**



The Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program is a not-for-profit educational program designed to enhance public education in consumer horticulture through the development and use of a *trained and supervised volunteer staff*. In essence, EMGs are *volunteer educators*. The Guilford County EMG program started in the early 1980s, with Consumer Horticulture Agent Karen Neill teaching the class since 1988. During this time, the program has grown to encompass a number of programs and projects in Guilford County, such as:

- Horticulture Information Line
- Gardening Gala and Seminar
- Speakers' Bureau Outreach
- Demonstration Garden
- Community Garden Outreach
- Youth Outreach
- Passalong Plant Sale & Festival

Through our program, we learn research-based horticultural information, which we then share with the public. Extension Master Gardener volunteers work side by side on a variety of challenging and enjoyable projects, all with the ultimate goal of teaching and demonstrating sound environmental stewardship practices. Through the program, Extension Master Gardeners develop friendships that last a lifetime.

In addition to these community functions, the Extension Master Gardener program affords numerous opportunities for involvement on internal committees that assume responsibility for areas like the following:

- Mentor-Intern Program
- Continuing Education
- Social
- Technology
- Media Outreach
- Newsletters for both the EMGs and the Community Garden ploholders

The Cooperative Extension Service logo tagline says, "Empowering People. Providing Solutions." *And that's exactly what EMGs do!*



REQUIREMENTS

FIRST YEAR

During the first calendar year, new EMGs, called Interns, are required to complete the Extension Master Gardener Course. This training consists of roughly 48 hours of classroom-based education covering a range of gardening topics, from simple botany through integrated pest management and basic landscape design principles. *Classes and many other activities are held on Wednesday mornings, so it's essential to be available then.*

Interns are also required to provide 50 hours of volunteer service in Guilford County during their first year. Some of those hours are in required areas:

- Information Line
- Demonstration Garden
- Community Garden
- Youth Program
- Speakers Bureau Outreach
- Passalong Plant Sale

The remaining hours may be completed in any approved program area. The exact hours required in specific program areas may change slightly from year to year.

FOLLOWING YEARS

During the second and subsequent years, requirements are less structured. Volunteers are required to complete 10 hours of approved continuing education, 6 volunteer hours on the Information Line, and 24 additional hours of service in any approved program area.