

# Bexar County Master Gardeners

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**SUBJECT:** M-13 Submission for New Volunteer Activity Approval

**POLICY:** Submission for New Volunteer Activity Approval

In the event that a BCMG member believes that a program/event should qualify for official "Volunteer Hours" the following information and corresponding approval procedure will apply.

The key criterion for approval consideration is that the program/event **MUST** provide unbiased, research-based gardening information to the public that is locally relevant to Bexar County. The project must be one that involves other MGs and is sustainable by BCMG beyond the submitting MG's involvement.

Examples of programs/events that **DO NOT** meet these criteria:

- Development and/or maintenance of community gardens. This includes gardens in which the plants are labeled and/or represent a specific "Earth-Kind" gardening practice.
- Assistance with school gardens that do not participate in the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service school gardens program.
- Educating the public outside of Bexar County (such as Kendall County etc.)
- Informally educating friends or neighbors about gardening best practices
- Leading informal tours of gardens, such as the San Antonio Botanical Gardens

Examples of programs/events that **MIGHT** meet these criteria:

- In coordination with the BCMG Speakers Bureau, developing a formal presentation to give to a group at a festival located within Bexar County
- Teaching a gardening-related topic and/or leading a gardening-related activity at a school
- Creating a gardening-focused educational event that is open to the public

## **PROCEDURE:**

If a member believes that the program/event meets the approval criteria, the following steps should be completed.

- 1) Complete the BCMG New Program Request Form in advance. Hours will not be granted in arrears, even if the program/activity is subsequently approved.
- 2) Return completed form to BCMG Board.
- 3) Activities approved by the BCMG Board will be forwarded to the County Extension Agent - Horticulture for final approval.

Any questions regarding this policy may be submitted to BCMG Board.

## **RATIONALE:**

We encourage and support our Bexar County Master Gardeners (BCMGs) in their desire to volunteer for programs/events that benefit his/her community.

**DATE APPROVED:** 14 January 2021