

Offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Beginning Aug. 23, 2023 – Ending Nov. 17, 2023 (Friday)
Classes meet every Wednesday, 12:00 noon – 4:00PM (**unless told otherwise**)

Class Location:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Conference Room
3555 Cherry Ridge, Suite #208, San Antonio, TX 78230

Field Trips:

Friday, October 6, 9 AM – 12 PM, San Antonio Botanical Garden
Friday, Nov 17, 9 AM – 11 AM, Peterson Nursery (Wholesale grower)

Submission of application does not guarantee acceptance into the class

Application Deadline – Thursday, July 6, 2023

Get your application in A.S.A.P. as space is limited.

Texas Master Gardeners support **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service** by providing unbiased, research-based, gardening information to the public. By applying to become a Master Gardener, you are expressing your willingness to support this community education through your volunteer service. You will also provide support to the Bexar County Master Gardeners through talents/skills which you may already have or are willing to learn.

Proficiency in gardening is not required. We are looking for individuals that are ready to volunteer their time to the Bexar County Master Gardener program.

To be considered for the Master Gardener Program you must:

- Complete this application
- Attend a scheduled in-person **group interview** in the last week of July.

Master Gardener Internship

If accepted for the Master Gardener Program, you will be admitted as a Master Gardener Intern. The **Intern period is from August 23, 2023, through November 30, 2024.** During this time MG Interns will:

- Complete classroom training:
 - 13 4-hr in-person classes
 - 2 field trips
 - Final exam
- Provide a **minimum of 50 volunteer hours (VHs) of service under the guidance of veteran Master Gardeners and the County Program Coordinator.** Of which:
 - **Part of your 50 VHs** will be in required events, programs, and committees designed to give a wider overview and understanding of the entire organization's back-office functions and how we

enable/support the mission and actual hands-on horticultural activities. These required VHs will include:

- Research - successfully research and write an educational article (150 words)
 - Phone Helpline - Work with veteran MGs for 2 shifts
 - Committee Work - Serve on a committee/team (such as Scion/Blog, Leaflet, Calendar, Publicity, Scholarship, Facebook, Education, etc.) or attend a briefing
 - Children's Education - Working directly with children under the guidance of Veteran MGs or the Youth Gardening Coordinator at the Children's Vegetable Gardens (2 shifts) or on a Children's Task Force event (watering the garden or assembling activity kits do not count)
 - Speaker's Bureau – Attend a Speakers Bureau briefing to learn about opportunities
 - Attend 1 BCMG Membership Meeting
- The remaining hours are from your choice of approved MG programs and events
- Graduation/Certification will be at the 2024 December Holiday and Awards Party

Master Gardener Annual Certification

Each year certified Master Gardeners must complete the following to continue their certified status for the following year:

- Provide 30 VHs of service
- Earn 6 hours of approved Continuing Education (EU)
- Attend 2 BCMG Monthly Membership Meetings
- Pay \$25 BCMG Dues
- Renew a background check (once every three years)

Interview

Applicants will attend a **group interview** to complete the application process. Please indicate your first (1) and second (2) choice for interview times. **Please plan to attend for the full group time.**

- _____ Group 1: Tuesday, July 25, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- _____ Group 2: Wednesday, July 26, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- _____ Group 3: Wednesday, July 26, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- _____ Group 4: Thursday, July 27, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- _____ Group 5: Friday, July 28, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

During the interview you will be given **3-5 minutes** to help us learn more about you and how you might engage as a Master Gardener educator. Please address the first two questions (in bold) plus one or more of the following topics.

- **Why are you applying for the Master Gardener Training?**
 - **What can you offer Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Bexar County Master Gardeners Program?**
 - *Briefly describe your work history and educational background*
 - *Are you retired or currently employed and share with us your work history*
 - *Briefly describe your gardening experience*
 - *Briefly describe your experience working with youth/adult groups*
 - *Briefly describe your public speaking experience*
 - *Briefly describe your event planning experience*
 - *Briefly describe your board or committee experience*
 - *Are you bi-lingual? If yes, in what language(s)?*
 - *Anything else you would like to share*
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To Apply

An online application is available [here](#).

Or complete this form and return:

- **Mail to:**
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
ATTN: Nick Vazquez
3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Ste. 212
San Antonio, TX, 78230
- **Drop-off:** Use the drop box at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office (same address)
- **Email:** Attach the forms and send to nick.vazquez@ag.tamu.edu
(Only one submission of application is required)
You may attach up to two letters of reference (optional).

Registration Information

- **Approved applicants must attend a group interview (July 25, 26, 27, or 28) for selection.**
- Applicants will be contacted within a week's time of their interview regarding their status of being accepted or not accepted for the training. Accepted applicants will be sent a private link via email for payment of **\$300 which is payable in full – by August 18th.**
- Needs-based scholarships are available, please contact David Rodriguez, at dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu.
- **NOTE:** A background check is required on **ALL** applicants participating in any Extension Volunteer Program and will be completed on the first day of class.
- If applicant withdraws prior to August 23, 2023, a processing fee of \$100 will be administered, **no refunds will be issued** on or after August 23, 2023.

Name (Last, First)	Nickname
Address, City, Zip Code	
Preferred Phone	Alternate Phone and Emergency Contact
Email Address	Bexar County Precinct # (1, 2, 3, or 4)
Previous or Current Occupation	

If you do not know your County Precinct #, [check here](#).

Interest Survey (Please circle the letter that best matches):

1. Giving a presentation:
 - a. I have experience and am comfortable and willing to speak.
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I am interested in becoming a speaker
 - c. I am not interested in becoming a speaker

2. Creating presentations using PowerPoint:
 - a. I have experience with PowerPoint, and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience with PowerPoint, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with creating presentations

3. Researching and creating curriculum for new presentations and workshops
 - a. I have experience in curriculum development, and I would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with curriculum development

4. Publicity or public relations experience:
 - a. Yes, I have experience and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with publicity

5. Social media experience:
 - a. I have experience and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with social media

6. IT experience:
 - a. I have experience and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with IT

7. Working with Zoom and/or other virtual platforms as a Host:
 - a. I have experience working with virtual platforms
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with virtual platforms

8. Setting up and working with spreadsheets:
 - a. I have experience and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping work with spreadsheets

9. Graphic design:
 - a. I have experience and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested graphic design work

10. Cashier experience using Square:
 - a. I have experience using Square to take payments
 - b. I have limited/no experience, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping as a cashier

11. Fundraising:
 - a. I have experience with fundraising and would be willing to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience with fundraising, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with fundraising

12. Grant writing:
 - a. I have experience with grant writing and would be willing to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience with grant writing, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with grant writing

13. Bookkeeping
 - a. I have experience with bookkeeping and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience with bookkeeping, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with bookkeeping

14. Construction
 - a. I have experience with the set-up and tear-down of structures and displays and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience with the set-up and tear-down of structures and displays, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in helping with construction

15. Working with youth at existing programs and events:
 - a. Yes, I really want to work with youth!
 - b. I will help occasionally
 - c. I am not interested in helping with youth programs and events

16. Serving on a team to develop new youth programs:
 - a. Yes, I want to help develop new youth programs
 - b. I will help occasionally
 - c. I am not interested in helping with developing new youth programs

 17. Vegetable gardening:
 - a. I have considerable experience
 - b. I have limited experience
 - c. I have no experience

 18. Plant research trials (planting, maintenance, and harvesting)
 - a. I would be interested in helping
 - b. I will help occasionally
 - c. I am not interested in helping with plant research trials

 19. Researching and answering gardening questions (phone, emails, and/or at events)
 - a. I am interested in serving in this type of activity
 - b. I will train and serve, only if needed, in this type of activity
 - c. I am not interested in serving in this type of activity

 20. Leading or organizing events:
 - a. I have experience in this area and would like to help
 - b. I have limited/no experience in leading or organizing events, but I am willing to learn and help
 - c. I am not interested in serving in this capacity
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By submitting this application, I indicate that I have read and understand the expectations of holding a Bexar County Master Gardener certification. I agree to fully complete the classroom training and volunteer at least 50 hours of service as a MG Intern volunteer as outlined above.

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. **The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating San Antonio.**