

Volunteer and Educational Training Hours Guidelines

The type of volunteer work performed is based on a mutual decision of the local Cooperative Extension Educator and the Master Gardener. The intent of the program is to extend unbiased information to the public while utilizing community resources. Specific locations for volunteer work are determined locally and should reflect local need. Volunteer hours should be educational in nature and approved by the Floyd County Master Gardener Coordinator.

Volunteer Hours

Time spent planning and providing an educational or service activity for the benefit of the community. Includes travel and preparation time as well as business portion of the monthly Sunnyside Master Gardener meeting (see the minutes in the Sunnyside Thymes newsletter for time earned.) hour). Staffing information booths, presenting to local groups, working on the SMG newsletter, answering questions at the Extension Office, soil testing, and working on SMG committees are all ways to earn volunteer hours. While community beautification is noble and is acceptable as volunteer service, efforts should be aimed at education. MG cannot accept payment for any MG volunteer service. MG can accept an honorarium on behalf of SMG and can be reimbursed for mileage and out-of-pocket expense.

Educational/Advanced Training

(Must complete MG status before working on Educational/Advanced Training).

Time spent furthering own education such as seminars, Purdue training sessions, and lectures. Monthly MG meetings – see the minutes in the Sunnyside Thymes newsletter for time earned.

Includes participation in state, regional, national or international master gardening conferences, county sponsored advanced training sessions, and in other programs approved by local coordinator. Travel to and from training should **not** be counted as advanced training time.

Contacts

Contacts are those individuals or groups with which you are exchanging or passing gardening and gardening-related information. If you are chairing a Master Gardener committee, the volunteers on that committee would qualify as contacts. If you are giving a gardening or gardening-related presentation, the audience would qualify as contacts.