



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Washington State University (WSU) Island County Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program

Application Process 2026-2027

The WSU Island County Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program is a volunteer program for people with a passion for plants, a drive to learn, and a commitment to serving our community. Qualified applicants may have limited experience or knowledge of horticulture, or extensive experience, but all have a desire to learn and share their knowledge with our community.

Process:

Step 1: Your foundation (book learning): The EMG journey begins with intensive online training from October 2026 through February 2027. Training combines 13 weekly online modules accessed through WSU's Green School.

Step 2: Local action (volunteer training): The Island County EMG in-person sessions will focus on your volunteer outreach skills. This will include 8 weeks of hands-on learning and field trips. These in-person classes begin in January and extend into March 2027. Following these classes, you will present your capstone project at a Master Gardener meeting in March or May of 2027.

Washington Green School (WGS) Online course:

Participants engage with weekly online learning modules, including optional Q&A Zoom sessions, a 29-chapter manual, corresponding quizzes, and a final exam (all open book). Feedback from past participants indicates weekly modules take between 3 and 6 hours. The passing score for quizzes and the final exam must be 80% or higher.

Island County Extension Master Gardener (EMG) In-Person course:

Participants engage in weekly in-person learning. This hands-on training is where you learn to be a Master Gardener in Island County. The training includes field trips, as well as plant identification, understanding soils, pest and disease management, noxious weeds, and more. The focus is on skills relevant to your community education volunteer work.

Costs & Fees:

The total cost of EMG training is \$275. A required background check costs an additional \$16 and requires you to submit personal information online, including your Social Security number. **If you have already completed the WGS training in the previous year, your volunteer training is available at no charge.**

Computer access:

Participants must have computer experience and feel comfortable navigating the internet and using email. Participants will need access to a computer for extended periods.

Internship:

Upon successful completion of training, volunteers begin a one-year internship during which they are required to serve at least 50 volunteer hours on projects such as the answer clinic, tabling at

community events, tending demonstration gardens, and youth and adult education, to name just a few of the many volunteer opportunities. Once completed, you will officially be an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer.

Maintaining Your Certification:

After the internship year, veteran EMGs serve at least 25 volunteer hours each year, in addition to 10 continuing education hours, to retain EMG certified status.

Application Instructions:

Applications are available now and will be **accepted until September 12.**

Step 1: Complete the application and email (scan; no photos), mail, or drop off at the address below. Once we receive your application, we may call you to request additional information.

Step 2: Participate in a small group information session. The purpose of this orientation is to familiarize you with the program and the commitment that comes with entering the training and being a Master Gardener. The process includes other prospective EMG applicants and current volunteers. Be prepared to learn more about the program and have questions answered.

Step 3: Register for training. Following your orientation session, you will receive notification of acceptance to the program. Included in your acceptance, you will find information about how to complete registration for the Washington Green School online class as well as how to complete your background check.

If you have any questions, please call 360-639-6060 or email sarah.bergquist@wsu.edu. Thanks!

Mail or Drop off Application:

WSU Extension Island County
Master Garden Program
406 North Main Street
Coupeville, WA 98239

Office Phone:
360-639-6060
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 am to 4 pm

Email Scanned Application:

sarah.bergquist@wsu.edu

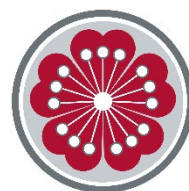
Keep these two pages for your records.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information, or reasonable accommodation need to contact their local Extension office at least 2 weeks prior to the event/activity.

8/14/2026



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Washington State University Extension Master Gardener Program

The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is open to individuals interested in becoming volunteers and sharing gardening and horticulture knowledge with the general public through community outreach. Extension Master Gardener volunteers engage with communities to support stewardship of our soil, water and wildlife, and contribute to food security by using sustainable gardening practices. We welcome applicants of all experience levels and backgrounds who are passionate about increasing their gardening knowledge and giving back to communities through volunteer service.

To become a WSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, you must be 18 years of age or older. Are you 18 years of age or older? Yes _____ No _____

Please complete and return to your local WSU Extension Office

Name:

(First)

(Middle)

(Last)

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing

Address:

(Street)

(City)

(Zip)

Preferred pronouns (circle one): she/her he/him they/them other:

Would you like your pronouns included on your name badge? (circle one) Yes / No

Phone: Day: () _____ Best Time to Call: _____

Eve: () _____ Best Time to Call: _____

Email Address:

Please describe your gardening experience or education/training (personal, volunteer, or work), or if you have not gardened, why gardening interests you:

Annuals	Herbs	Propagation
Perennials	Houseplants	Greenhouses
Roses	Fruit trees	Container gardening
Lawns	Berries and grapes	Insects
Ornamental grasses	Trees and shrubs	Plant diseases
Native plants	Pruning	Weeds
Wildlife habitat	Soils	Landscape design
Vegetables	Composting	Water gardens
Wildfire-resistant landscaping	Climate resilient gardening	Waterwise gardening

Share experiences where you used your time (volunteered) to help others or a cause:

In the Master Gardener Program, we often rely on volunteers’ other skills, interests or experience. What non-gardening skills do you have that you would be willing to share in support of the Program?
(please check all that apply)

Microsoft Word, Excel,	Drawing/illustrating	Research/data collection
PowerPoint, Outlook	Fundraising	Public speaking
Website development	Writing/publishing	Teaching
Graphic design	Grant writing	Community organizing
Photography	Proofreading	Other _____
Event planning	Marketing & publicity	Other _____

Please provide specific information on the above checked categories: (optional)

If you are able to speak, read, or write a language(s) other than English (including American Sign Language), please list:

Why do you wish to become a WSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer? For example, what do you hope to contribute or gain from participating in the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Is there any other information about your skills, knowledge, training, lived experiences, or abilities you would like us to have?

[illegible]**Photo/Video Release**

I understand that, unless noted below, WSU Extension may use photos, video, or audio recordings made of me at events to promote the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program without compensation. I understand that WSU Extension may reveal my name in descriptive text or commentary.

I do not agree.

Personal References

References: List non-family members who have knowledge of your skills, abilities, and qualifications. Individuals should have worked with you on projects and activities and/or have direct experience with or knowledge of your qualifications. Please provide complete addresses and phone numbers.

Name:

First

Last

Relationship

Contact

Information:

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address:

Name:

First

Last

Relationship

Contact

Information:

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address:

I authorize Washington State University Extension to contact the listed references. I understand that a criminal background check is required prior to being fully accepted as a volunteer in the program. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of required information is just cause for non-appointment as a volunteer with Washington State University Extension. I understand that I serve at the pleasure of the Washington State University Extension and agree to abide by the policies of Washington State University Extension and individual program areas and to fulfill the volunteer responsibilities to the best of my ability.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Office Use Only:

Civil Rights Information WSU Master Gardener Volunteers

Confidential & Voluntary

The WSU Extension Master Gardener program is part of a land-grant university system. The land-grant university system was built on the principle that all people should have access to education. The WSU Extension Master Gardener program wants to ensure we uphold this principle in our work.

Additionally, Washington State University Extension and its programs are federally funded and as such are required by the Civil Rights Act to report demographic information for employees, volunteers and community persons who seek our services. Please complete this form and return it to your local program coordinator. Responses will not be used in the selection process. This page will be removed prior to the application being reviewed.

Our goal for collecting this information is to see how well we uphold the land-grant principle of access to education. We summarize the race, ethnicity, and gender of volunteers and of the people we serve to determine how closely WSU Master Gardener programs are to balanced participation in each county.

Note: Your name will not be reported in conjunction with your Race, Ethnicity and Gender data. The data is reported as an aggregate to USDA-NIFA and names are never included in the reports. Individually identifiable information will be treated as confidential, is not disclosed without (written) consent, and is not included in the review of application to become an Extension Master Gardener volunteer. Your name is only used to record who has reported and who has not in order to accurately report Race, Ethnicity and Gender data.

What is your gender?

Male
Female
Non-binary
Gender other or unidentified
Prefer not to respond

What is your ethnicity?

Hispanic or Latino
Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino
Ethnicity unidentified
Prefer not to respond

What is your race?

White
Black or African American
First Nations / American Indian / Alaska Native
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
Asian
Two or more races
Race other or unidentified
Prefer not to respond

The College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) is committed to creating and maintaining a diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environment for students, staff, faculty, and the communities we serve and in which we operate.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information, or reasonable accommodation need to contact their local Extension office at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline for application.