



WSU EXTENSION
Thurston County



**WSU Thurston County Extension Master Gardener Program
Volunteer Application**

Thank you for your interest in the 2026-2027 WSU Thurston County Master Gardener Volunteer Training program. The training class has a cap and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. If there is still room, the very last date to submit your volunteer application is 5 p.m. on Friday, August 28, 2026. You must be 18 years old or older to apply.

There are two ways to complete and submit your volunteer application:

1. You can complete and submit the online application:

- The online application can be found on our website at:
- <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/become-a-wsu-thurston-county-master-gardener/application/>
- Complete the online application and click "Submit."

-OR-

2. You can print the application, complete it by hand, and return the application by mail:

- Print the document by right clicking on the document and selecting "Print".
- Complete the application by printing clearly and legibly.
- Make a copy of your completed application for your records.
- Send your completed application to: (Do not send payment with this application)

WSU Thurston County Master Gardener Program
Attn: Cori Carlton, MG Application
3054 Carpenter Rd. SE
Olympia, WA 98503

Do not email completed application. Applications submitted via email will not be considered.

*** = Required**

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

Name: *

(First, Middle, Last)

Preferred Name: (i.e., John instead of Jonathan, etc.) _____

What name do you want listed on your name badge? (First and Last) * _____

Mailing Address: *

(Street, City, Zip)

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 Cori Carlton at 3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia WA 98503, 360-867-2162, cori.carlton@co.thurston.wa.us at least two weeks prior to the deadline for application.

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

Would you like your pronouns on your name badge? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Phone: *

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

Eve: (____) _____ Best Time to Call: _____

Email Address: *

Please provide an emergency contact (emergency phone number provided must be different than phone number provided in contact information): *

Name of your emergency contact: _____

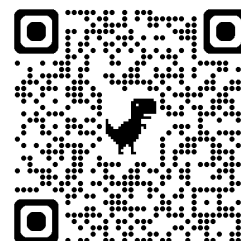
Relation to you (spouse, sibling, child, friend etc.): _____

Contact's Phone: (____) _____

Training Participation Expectations

Training to become an WSU Thurston County Extension Master Gardener volunteer includes 2 main components:

1. **Washington Gardeners Certificate (WGC) online course.** The online course will take place over a 20-week period between October 2026 and February 2027. WGC course includes reading (online, no text required), homework, quizzes, in-class activities, lectures, and a final exam. WGC online course schedule can be viewed at <https://greenschool.extension.wsu.edu/home/wgs-schedule/>
2. **Local Volunteer Training (LVT).** Trainees attend in-person training days for hands-on learning at locations across Thurston County. Trainees are expected to attend in-person sessions from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates.



Scan the QR code to open the WGC online course schedule.

Dates	Times	Format
Friday September 25, 2026	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person
Friday October 23, 2026	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person
Friday November 20, 2026	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person
Friday December 11, 2026	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person
Friday January 29, 2027	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person
Friday February 19, 2027	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person
Friday March 5, 2027	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person
Friday April 16, 2027	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person
Friday May 14, 2026	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	In-person

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 Cori Carlton at 3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia WA 98503, 360-867-2162, cori.carlton@co.thurston.wa.us at least two weeks prior to the deadline for application.

Can you commit to completing the Washington Gardeners Certificate and attending the Local Volunteer Training class dates and times? If no, please explain. * ☐ Yes ☐ No

Applicant Availability, Experience, and Skills/Interest

Please check the geographical area(s) in which you would be willing to volunteer: *

Lacey ☐ Tumwater ☐ Olympia ☐ Rochester/Littlerock ☐ Tenino ☐ Yelm ☐

No Preference ☐

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

What are you most excited to learn about? (please check all that apply) *

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☐ 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 |
| ☐ Organic gardening | ☐ Adaptive gardening | ☐ Children's gardening |
| ☐ Irrigation | ☐ Square-foot gardening | ☐ Companion planting |

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) *

The skills you are willing to share with us is just as important as prior gardening experience. We need people with all types of experience to help further our program goals.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook | ☐ Drawing/illustrating | ☐ Research/data collection |
| ☐ Website development | ☐ Fundraising | ☐ Event planning |
| ☐ Graphic design | ☐ Writing/publishing | ☐ Teaching/public speaking |
| ☐ Video production | ☐ Grant writing | ☐ Community organizing |
| ☐ Financial management | ☐ Social media | ☐ Artwork/displays |
| | ☐ Office/clerical skills | ☐ Volunteer management |

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 Cori Carlton at 3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia WA 98503, 360-867-2162, cori.carlton@co.thurston.wa.us at least two weeks prior to the deadline for application.

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Writing articles | ☐ Financial investing | ☐ Other _____ |
| ☐ Photography | ☐ Proofreading | ☐ Other _____ |
| ☐ Skilled Labor (i.e. electrical, plumbing, carpentry, mechanics, painting, welding etc.) | ☐ Marketing & publicity | |

Please provide specific information on the above checked categories:

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? *

How did you learn about the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program? *

Have you been to a WSU Extension Master Gardener clinic or demonstration garden? * ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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 Cori Carlton at 3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia WA 98503, 360-867-2162, cori.carlton@co.thurston.wa.us at least two weeks prior to the deadline for application.

Photo/Video Release

I understand, 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.

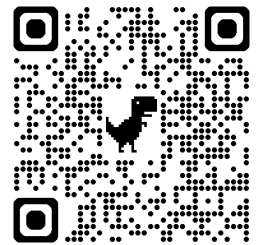
☐ I do not agree.

Volunteer Expectations & Agreement

Thank you for your interest in the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program. The agreements and policies, clarify the scope and expectations of our Program. WSU Thurston County Extension invest in volunteers and in return volunteers invest in WSU Thurston County Extension and in local communities. It is important to clearly define expectations so current and interested volunteers have the information they need to determine if being a WSU volunteer is a good fit. WSU Thurston County Extension values the time and talents of volunteers and commits to doing our best to make the volunteer experience productive and rewarding.

Before completing your application, please go to the WSU Master Gardener Program Volunteer Expectations and Agreement website and read the expectations. The Volunteer & Expectations Agreement is at <https://bit.ly/EMGagreement>.

☐ By signing and submitting this application I agree to the Volunteer Expectations & Agreement at <https://bit.ly/EMGagreement>



Scan the QR code to open the Volunteer Expectations and Agreement webpage.

Personal References *

List 2 **non-family member references** 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.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name:

First

Last

Relationship

Contact

Information:

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address:

Name:

First

Last

Relationship

Contact

Information:

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address:

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 Cori Carlton at 3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Olympia WA 98503, 360-867-2162, cori.carlton@co.thurston.wa.us at least two weeks prior to the deadline for application.

I authorize Washington State University Extension to contact the listed references. I understand that a criminal background 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: