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# BOONE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

## VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

### PURPOSE

To provide public education with research-based information from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, or appropriate Cooperative Extension institutions, on best practices in consumer horticulture and environmental stewardship.

### NATURE AND SCOPE

Iowa Master Gardener volunteers expand the ability of ISU Extension and Outreach faculty and staff to provide public value and meet the needs of Iowa citizens in the areas of consumer horticulture and environmental stewardship.

Trained Iowa Master Gardener interns and active Master Gardener volunteers provide educational programs, interpret Extension recommendations for consumers, and give advice and answers to questions on a broad range of gardening and landscape topics, including plant culture, plant pathology, entomology, soils, and environmentally sound best practices. This is accomplished through formal and informal activities that include plant clinics, telephone consultations, classes, written materials, demonstration gardens, public meetings, and one-on-one consultations. Master Gardeners may provide educational programs to adult or youth audiences through Extension partnerships with schools, institutions, or other organizations such as Conservation Districts and city park departments. Master Gardener volunteers may also serve in program leadership roles at local, regional or state levels as assigned or as elected according to program by-laws.

### IOWA MASTER GARDENER REQUIREMENTS

- Must participate fully in and complete core course training; fulfill annual continuing education requirement predetermined by county Extension master gardener program (minimum 10 hours annually to remain an active Iowa Master Gardener).
- Annually complete and report via the online hours reporting system at least 20 hours of public education volunteer service hours (minimum of 40 hours during the intern year).
- Follow ISU Extension and Outreach Master Gardener policies and procedures, including responsibility for reporting and responding to reasonable requests for volunteer service.
- Follow Iowa State University and Iowa Master Gardener codes of conduct.
- Follow Iowa Master Gardener policies pertaining to use of research-based information and making recommendations, especially in relation to pesticides and other pest control measures.
- Be able to communicate effectively with the public by telephone, personal contact, group presentation and/or through written language.
- Be able to work with adults and/or youth, and be willing to share horticulture knowledge with others.

### SUPERVISION

Boone County Master Gardener volunteers are supervised by and accountable to the Boone County Director for ISU Extension and Outreach.

### BENEFITS FOR IOWA MASTER GARDENERS

- Gain knowledge and skills in horticultural science and gardening.
- Stimulate a love of gardening.
- Experience personal satisfaction from helping others.
- Establish friendships with fellow garden enthusiasts and develop useful contacts through networking
- Contribute public benefit to the community.
- Receive encouragement and recognition for volunteer activities.
- Increase leadership, organizational, decision making and problem-solving skills.
- Gain experience and skills transferable to new employment and volunteer opportunities.

