

# Become a Wayne County Master Gardener Volunteer

## Who are Extension Master Gardener Volunteers (EMGV)?

An Extension Master Gardener is a volunteer for NC Cooperative Extension. Volunteers are trained to assist their local county extension office to provide practical information to gardeners of all ages on home lawns, landscapes, and gardens.

### Master Gardeners are ones who want to:

- Learn more about gardening
- Meet & connect with other gardeners
- Give back to others through volunteering



## What do EMGVs do?

- Volunteer hours are spent towards Wayne County EMGV programs.
- Examples of volunteer opportunities include:
  - Answering gardening questions in the office plant clinic (10am to 1pm, Mondays and Wednesdays)
  - Organize mobile plant info clinics to share gardening information to general public
  - Organizing and holding a Spring Garden Festival and Plant Sale
  - Teaching a 4-H Summer Youth Gardening Camp
  - Volunteering at Wayne Extension Demonstration Gardens and Wayne Regional Agricultural Fairground Gardens
  - Attending monthly meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 2pm)

## To Become an EMGV

### Step 1: The Application Process

- Selection into the Wayne County EMGV program is through an application process based on:
  - Commitment to volunteering in sharing gardening knowledge through NC Cooperative Extension
  - Ability to volunteer on weekdays
  - Interest in learning more about gardening
  - A working e-mail address and basic internet skills
  - Pass a background check
  - **Prior gardening knowledge is NOT required**

### To receive an application packet:

- Join our e-mail list at <https://wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/email-me> and select "Gardening".
- Announcements will be made through the gardening e-mail list of when applications are being accepted for an upcoming EMGV training course.

## Step 2: The EMGV Training Course:

- Training course is held as additional volunteers are needed, usually annually or biennially.
- The course consist typically of approx. 20 classes that meet 3-hours weekly during the daytime.
- Students are not to miss more than two classes.
- Training classes prepare volunteers to answer gardening questions and diagnose common problems related to cultivating lawns, fruits and vegetables, and landscape plants.

## Training Course Registration Cost:

- **Selected applicants are required to pay a registration cost of \$85 without a handbook or \$135 with a hard copy handbook.**
- Registration cost is non-refundable. Registration cost is not accepted until applicant is accepted into the training class.
- Extension publications and presentations provided for all students
- View the NC Extension Gardening Handbook online at: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook>



## Step 3: Beyond the EMGV training course:

- After the training course, interns are required to volunteer 40 hours by the end of the year.
- After the internship, volunteers complete at least 20 volunteer hours and 10 educational hours each year to remain active.

**NC Cooperative Extension – Wayne County Center**  
3114B Wayne Memorial Drive, Goldsboro, NC  
919.731.1520

**Jessica Strickland**  
Horticulture Extension Agent  
[jessica.strickland@waynegov.com](mailto:jessica.strickland@waynegov.com)

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