



# Master Gardener Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## Continuing Education Policy for WSU MG Volunteers

There is a minimum state requirement for veteran Master Gardener volunteers to acquire 10 hours of continuing education per year to qualify for recertification. The purpose of obtaining continuing education hours is to improve volunteer knowledge and skill base for performing work as community educators in horticulture and environmental stewardship.

The guidelines below outline what does, and what does not, qualify for continuing education. **Only those hours that qualify for continuing education hours, as outlined below, are reportable to the WSU Online Volunteer Database.** If you have any questions about a specific event and whether it qualifies for continuing education, please contact your Master Gardener Program Coordinator.

### What qualifies for continuing education?

- Horticulture courses given by WSU including re-taking basic Master Gardener training
- Webinars, field trips and workshops sponsored by Extension
- Classes offered by accredited institutions: community colleges, technical colleges, universities
- WA State Dept. of Agriculture approved pesticide classes
- Classes taught by professional associations such as WA State Nursery and Landscape Association, WA Association of Landscape Professionals, International Society of Arboriculture, etc.
- Time spent doing research preparing a Master Gardener presentation which is then delivered to the community (limit of 4 times the length of the presentation)
- Time spent doing research for a newspaper or Master Gardener newsletter article which is then published (limit 4 hours)
- Other activities, including training on how programs are planned, delivered or evaluated; presentation skills; meeting facilitation; etc. may qualify. Contact your Program Coordinator for pre-approval.

### What does not qualify for continuing education?

- Food preservation or preparation classes
- Personal trips and tours not pre-approved by the program coordinator
- Out of state conferences, field trips, and garden tours unless they are sponsored or hosted by WSU Extension, approved by the Master Gardener Program Coordinator *and* relevant to the mission of the Master Gardener Program.
- Garden craft or photography classes
- Personal research or reading not related to a Master Gardener project
- Travel time to and from events unless approved by your program coordinator.