

**NEWCOMERS WELCOME**

**GRAYSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

**TRANSFER APPLICATION & FAQs**



**TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION**

**Grayson County  
Courthouse A-G-1  
100 W. Houston  
Sherman, TX 75090  
903-813-4204  
<https://txmg.org/grayson/>**

**Master Gardeners are members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and to help others, and able to communicate with diverse groups of people.**

**The first Master Gardener class was held in 1979 in Montgomery County and drew about 25 people.**

**The Texas Agricultural Extension Service made an official commitment to a Texas Master Gardener program in 1987 with the hiring of a statewide coordinator.**

**In 1991, a statewide, non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] was formed and called the Texas Master Gardener Association. As of January 1998, there are 54 county Master Gardener programs with over 4,000 certified Master Gardeners statewide. In 1997, they contributed more than 182,000 hours of volunteer service.**

**Transfer Application  
Grayson County Master Gardener  
New Member Biography**

I am applying for a transfer into the Grayson County chapter of the Texas Master Gardeners. I am currently a member in good standing of \_\_\_\_\_ (What Master Gardener Chapter are you transferring from?)

I agree to pay the local dues of \$25.00 and either provide proof of my background check or submit the forms for a new background check and pay the fee of \$10.00.

I understand that annual recertification requirements are 15 volunteer hours, 6 Continuing Education Units, and to attend at least 4 Meetings per year. Please check with \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (phone number or email address) to confirm hours and CEU's I wish to transfer from my previous chapter of the Master Gardeners.

Name: _____ (Please Print Name)
_____ (Signature)
Address: _____
City/State/Zip Code: _____
Telephone: (Day) _____ (Night) _____
Email Address: _____
Emergency contact name and phone: _____
Medical conditions we should know about (optional): _____

Please complete the following questions. Use additional pages if necessary.

1. Are you a resident of Grayson County? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If no, in what county do you reside? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long have you been a member of the Master Gardeners? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Tell us about your Master Gardener experience. Did you hold any offices? Did you attend any specialist trainings? What kinds of projects have you participated in?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. List areas of specialization or hobbies (e.g., flowers, vegetables, ornamentals, house plants, community gardening, fruit crops, trees, creating wildlife habitats, organic gardening, etc):

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6. Please describe any other skills and/or abilities you have which might be useful in volunteer work (e.g., computer and/or clerical skills, web page design, public speaking, artistry, photography, graphic design, fundraising, newsletters and media relations, program and/or presentation development, editing, etc.):

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7. Please list any group affiliations (garden clubs, plant societies, community gardens, civic organizations):

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8. Are you currently employed? Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_ If yes, where?

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Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

9. If you have ever been employed in the field of horticulture or gardening, in what capacity?

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Please complete this application and return to:

**Grayson County Master Gardeners  
100 W. Houston St  
Courthouse A-G-1  
Sherman TX 75090**

**For additional information, please visit the web site @ <https://txmg.org/grayson/>  
call the Master Gardener Office at (903) 813-4204  
or e-mail the Master Gardener office at [mastergardeners@co.grayson.tx.us](mailto:mastergardeners@co.grayson.tx.us)**

Extension programs serve people of ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. A member of the Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Who are the Officers of Grayson County Master Gardeners Association?**

Current Officers names and positions are available on the Grayson County Master Gardeners webpage.

The Officers for 2022 are: President, Michelle Breithaupt; Vice President, Scott Farler; Secretary, Norine Cherry; Treasurer, Krystl Philyaw.

The Standing Committee Chairs are: Volunteer Management, Barbara Vilbig; Training and Education, Marigay Black; Internet/Web Services, Sharon Melton.

### **When are the General Meetings?**

The calendar is posted on the Grayson County Master Gardeners webpage, under “Calendar” and gives details of time, location and continuing education topic.

Per the By-Laws, Article IV, Section 1: Meetings

“General meetings shall normally be held on the second Tuesday of each month. Time and place to be determined by the Executive Board. The Executive Board may replace a general meeting with a special event, which counts as a meeting toward certification.”

Our common practice is to schedule meetings either at 11:30 a.m. in the Fall months or 6:30 p.m. in the summer months, in the Assembly Room of the Grayson County Courthouse. Exceptions are the annual picnic meeting (May or June), Christmas dinner meeting (December), and/or time/venue variations determined by the Executive Board and announced to members in advance via email.

### **How much is the annual membership fee, and when is it due?**

The fee is \$25.00, preferably collected not later than the December general meeting.

Per the By-Laws, Article III, Section 10: Membership

“Membership dues are \$25.00 a year, payable by January 1. Failure to pay dues and/or respond to payment requests by February 1 will result in membership being revoked.”

### **What is the fee for the Volunteer Application (Background check)?**

The fee is \$10.00 and can be paid by cash or check made payable to the Grayson County Master Gardeners. Payment must be submitted when the application is turned in for processing.

### **What are the Recertification Requirements?**

Per the By-Laws, Article III, Section 3: Membership

“Masters must fulfill the following requirements for yearly recertification: a minimum of six hours of continuing education, fifteen hours of volunteer service, and attend a minimum of four meetings. Masters must pay their dues by the deadline set by the Executive Board.”

Per the By-Laws, Article III, Section 9: Membership

“Masters and Interns who cannot meet the certification requirements for the calendar year may file a request for an extension, waiver, or leave of absence prior to the end of the current calendar year to the Executive Board who will review the request and either approve or deny.”

### **What are Claimable Volunteer Hours?**

Per the Policy and Procedures Manual (Feb 11, 2020 edition), Item IV. Volunteer Service Hours Section 1. “Claimable Volunteer Service Hours must have been performed on activities that are covered by any one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Participation in an approved project pertaining to service that is educational in nature, as well as participation in an approved project, including service or maintenance type work.
- b) Supportive of TAE's mission, objectives, and issues
  - 1. Identified as sponsored (or co-sponsored) by TAE.
  - 2. Master Gardeners should wear Master Gardener name badges and/or shirts/apparel to identify their membership in the association.
  - 3. The association shall place a plaque or other identifying label at projects, where practical, to identify to the public the participation or sponsorship by Master Gardeners.
  - 4. Collaborations with other organizations are important, but the Grayson County Master Gardeners Association does not supply other organizations with volunteers to do their work.
- c) A Master Gardener's volunteer hours may be claimed for credit with either the Master Gardener program or another organization, but not both.
- d) Approved in advance for volunteer hours by the County TAE Agent.
- e) Preparation time for a presentation to a live or television audience.
- f) The duration of a presentation to live audience (actual time).
- g) A presentation during a television appearance (1 hour allowed).
- h) Preparation for AND writing of a gardening article for a magazine or other news media (2 hours allowed per article).
- i) Master Gardeners office work, including telephone answering, email, and electronic media duty.
- j) Plant sale preparation, including the propagation, watering, and tending of plants for an upcoming Master Gardener plant sale.
- k) In service of the association, e.g., setting-up, attending tables and tearing-down help at a plant sale, setting out the food before Intern classes and cleaning up afterwards, annual garden show work and participation, project evaluations, budget preparation, election duties, computer work including emails, etc.
- l) If you feel it qualifies, give detail, and claim it. Let the Volunteer Management Committee decide.”

Section 2. “The following activities are NOT Claimable Volunteer Service Hours:

- a) Travel time to or from a Project, venue, or meeting.
- b) Food preparation time for any Master Gardener event, including meetings, classes, parties, or picnics.
- c) Regular and/or committee meetings attendance time.”

### **What projects are available to earn Volunteer Hours?**

There are several projects available throughout the county as approved each year by the Master Gardeners. The schedule of approved projects which details the location, type of work, project leader and contact information is available on the Grayson County Master Gardeners webpage, under “Happenings, Grayson County Projects.”

### **How do I get a name badge and a MG logo t-shirt?**

Upon completion of the New Member Biography Application and the Volunteer Application (background check) forms, a name badge can be ordered through the Association secretary. The MG logo t-shirts are ordered periodically. The cost for each will be determined at the time the orders are placed.

**We're so glad to have you join our group. Welcome!**