

STATEWIDE MASTER GARDENER SPECIALIST TRAINING:

2016 EARTH-KIND® RESEARCH SPECIALIST TRAINING

Program Purpose:

The Earth-Kind Research Specialist Training program will provide advanced training for Master Gardener Volunteers, Agents, and Cooperators. Participants will gain knowledge and skills in the areas of design, construction, installation, management, evaluation, and data collection for Earth-Kind Research Trials.

Program Description:

This Master Gardener Specialist Training was developed to provide advanced, intensive training in the area of Earth-Kind Research. Participants seeking Specialist Certification will be encouraged to use the knowledge and skills gained during this training to support the development of Earth-Kind Research in their home county. Participants who complete the certification requirements will become part of a team of Earth-Kind Researchers across the state of Texas. To receive specialist certification, participants will need to complete the training course and required volunteer service requirements. The training course is designed to enable and encourage volunteers to complete the service requirements. No supervisory or administrative authority is conferred by this certification.

Participation Requirements:

Eligible participants should be a Certified Master Gardener Volunteer in good standing and receive approval from their County Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator. Agents, Extension employees, and their designated cooperators are also eligible to attend.

Time Commitment:

Master Gardener participants seeking certification as an Earth-Kind Research Specialist are required to serve a minimum of 20 hours toward an Earth-Kind Research Project within one year of completing the training.

Training and Service Requirements:

1. Complete the Earth-Kind Research Specialist Training
2. Submit Earth-Kind Research volunteer service project plan for approval by County Extension Agent
3. Serve as a resource to Extension and the Master Gardener Program
4. Assist in educating Master Gardeners, Interns, and the public
5. Help to Develop, Install, and Manage an Earth-Kind Field Trial or Research Study
6. Increase public awareness regarding the importance of Earth-Kind Research
7. Submit completed Earth-Kind Research Specialist Volunteer Report Form as directed

Specialist Recognition and Certification:

Upon successful completion of the Earth-Kind Research Specialist training and service requirements, the participant will be recognized at the annual Texas Master Gardener Conference with a Master Gardener Specialist Certificate and lapel pin.

Resources available to Earth-Kind Research Specialists:

- Training materials including handouts, presentations, research protocols, data collection forms
- Access to Earth-Kind Research sites across Texas and the United States
- Support from a team of Earth-Kind Researchers including Specialists, Agents, and Cooperators