

VRS Categories for 2019 Reporting Year - (November 01, 2018– October 31, 2019)

Effective with the 2017 reporting year, the OSU Extension MG Program adopted a new policy on recertification as follows:

- Active members must contribute **a minimum of 20 volunteer service hours** annually.
- **At least 10 of those hours** must be in either direct or indirect educational activities.
- Members must also complete a **minimum of 10 Continuing Education hours** annually.
- These requirements must have been completed in the reporting year prior to renewal.

Activity names in VRS have the following descriptors:

- **Direct** – Activities that have the potential to directly increase knowledge, change attitudes or change behaviors in ways that promote sustainable gardening
- **Indirect** – activities that facilitate the efforts of those who are teaching
- **Support** – activities not focused on educational outreach, but whose efforts help to support the mission of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program

⌘ - These activities are available only to **active** members

Category	Type	Description	MCMGA Activity Examples
Citizen Science	Indirect	Approved citizen science projects	Refer to projects approved for OSU Extension MG volunteer hours at website oregonstate.edu/gardencitizenscience/osus
Education Event Planning	Indirect	Involvement in developing any kind of statewide educational event	Planning Mini-college, developing a garden series for statewide use
⌘ Master Gardener Mentor	Indirect	Assumes the role of mentor for MG classes and training	Mentor for MG classes and training, attending Mentor meetings
Educational Garden (Maintenance)	Indirect	General educational garden, if work in the garden supports an educational project/program	Basic garden work – planting, weeding, pruning, harvesting, etc. Marion Demonstration Garden (including plant propagation and BHIP plots), Oregon Garden Specified school or community gardens Plot Managers' Meeting and Marion Garden Committee Meetings
⌘ Educational Garden (Instructor)	Direct	Any kind of gardening that is intended to teach not simply maintain (includes prep time)	Marion Demonstration Garden educational workshops/tours, Boys & Girls Clubs' gardens, community gardens, School gardens, halfway houses
⌘ Instructor (not at a garden)	Direct	Any activity where you act as an instructor, demonstrator, assistant etc. (includes prep time)	Prison garden education programs, Junior Master Gardener program, Seed to Supper, Speakers' Bureau, KBZY Radio program, Center 50+, other pre-approved workshops/classes
⌘ Plant Clinic	Direct	Any venue which is set up to provide community education to the public	Office Plant Clinic/Help Desk, Saturday Markets, County/State Fairs, AgFest, Urban AgFest, Oregon Garden Home School Day, SWCD Native Plant Sale, Yard & Patio Show

Category	Type	Description	MCMGA Activity Examples
⌘ Educational writing	Direct	Any kind of writing or social media that is being used to inform the public and/or the Master Gardeners (includes prep time)	Garden Gate Newsletter, specific research pre-approved by Neil
Fundraiser	Support	Activity that raises funds for the MCMGA	MCMGA Annual Plant Sale including greenhouse activity in preparing plants for the sale, set up and take down. Plant Sale Committee Meetings
MG Association	Support	Volunteering for MCMGA committees, attending association meetings, volunteering with OMGA, ⌘ MCMGA Board Member or OMGA Board Member	MCMGA committee meetings including prep time for meetings, the business portion of monthly meetings, board meetings, OMGA meetings, planning MCMGA events
Other Approved Projects	Support	Any other volunteer work that is part of an approved project	Marion Polk Food Share (MPFS) monthly sorting/packing food, Liberty House, SWCD Native Plant Sale or others approved by Neil
Other Approved Projects	Indirect	Facilitates efforts of those who are teaching	Wetlands project at Youth Farm, NWREC (North Willamette Research & Extension Center) Bug Group, Dayspring Community Garden, Beehive Station
⌘ Other Approved Projects	Direct	Activity that increases knowledge which promotes sustainable gardening	Projects that are pre-approved by Neil. Backyard Habitat Improvement Program Team, NWREC, the Drought Tolerant Project at Oregon Garden, Englewood Park

Veteran MGs:

Continuing Education (CE) Hours are those hours that you spend being educated in classes and seminars, which qualify for recertification credit in your county. For Marion County you need 10 Continuing Education Hours annually.

Completion of Continuing Education (CE) hours are required for activities where you answer questions from the public and deliver recommendations. In Marion County these activities/categories include the Office Plant Clinic, Community Clinics, instructor, mentor, plot manager, holding MCMGA office, doing educational writing and participating in research based projects.

Trainees:

Continuing Education Hours are not required for trainees. If as a trainee you attend a class/seminar this will count in your overall hours but not as part of the 66 volunteer service hours.

The above information was excerpted from the OSU Extension MG Program – VRS, Policy and Category Changes for Reporting Year 2016 and Beyond