

## VRS Categories for 2020 - Reporting Year Nov. 1, 2019– Oct. 31, 2020

The OSU Extension MG Program has adopted the following policy on recertification:

- Active members must contribute **a minimum of 20 volunteer service hours** annually.
- **At least 10 of those hours** must be either direct or indirect educational activities.
- Active members must also complete a **minimum of 10 Continuing Education hours** annually.
- The required hours must be completed by 10/31 of the reporting year prior to renewal.

Categories are described by the following types:

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

⌘ - Only certified (active) MGs may participate in the activities in these categories.

Category	Type	Description	MCMGA Activity Examples
Citizen Science	Indirect	OSU approved citizen science projects	The list of approved projects is available on the member page of our web site: <a href="http://marioncomga.org">marioncomga.org</a> .
Education Event Planning	Indirect	Development of local & statewide events, Conferences, seminar series, MG training programs	Planning annual Seed to Supper program with MPFS, preparing a countywide, presentation or talk, work on the MCMGA strategic planning event, planning Mini-College.
MG Class Mentor	Indirect	Assisting with the annual MG training course	Mentoring trainees thru classes & hours completion, attend Mentor meeting.
Educational Garden (Maintenance)	Indirect	Educational gardens require basic maintenance in order to be effectively used in educational outreach. However, maintenance should not be the major focus of garden activity. Work in the garden should support the educational mission and focus of the MG Program.	Basic upkeep – planting, weeding, pruning, harvesting, etc. Includes the Edibles, Ornamentals, Backyard Habitat, and Operations groups in the Marion Garden. Work in the Oregon Garden and in specified school or community gardens. Marion Garden general meetings and Marion Garden committee meetings.
⌘ Educational Garden (Instructor in a garden)	Direct	Education must be the focus of these activities, not garden labor without education. (includes prep time)	Using Marion Garden, the gardens of the Boys & Girls Clubs', community, school and halfway houses, for workshops, tours and as teaching and demonstration sites.
⌘ Instructor (not at a garden)	Direct	Any activity where you act as an instructor, demonstrator, speaker, etc. (includes prep time)	Garden education programs for Junior Master Gardeners, Seed to Supper and correctional facilities. Speakers' Bureau activities, KBZY Radio program, Center 50+ and other pre-approved workshops and classes.
⌘ Plant Clinic	Direct	Any venue which is set up to provide community education to the public	Office Plant Clinic (aka Help Desk), community plant clinics (see membership for a detailed list).

Category	Type	Description	MCMGA Activity Examples
⌘ Writing an Educational article	Direct	Writing used to inform the public and/or the Master Gardeners (includes research time)	Garden Gate Newsletter, local newspaper, specific research should be pre-approved by Neil.
Fundraiser	Support	Any activity that raises funds for the MCMGA	Annual Plant Sale, including propagation and greenhouse activity in preparing plants for the sale. Assisting with the sale set-up and take-down and 2 sale days. Plant sale and propagation committee meetings.
MG Association	Support	Serving as a an officer, board member or in an appointed position in a MG chapter or in the Oregon Master Gardener Association (leadership roles require active membership)	MCMGA monthly board meetings, committee meetings including prep time, the business portion of quarterly meetings (education portion is CE), OMGA meetings, activities that support MCMGA, workshop assistant.
Other Approved Activities	Support	As determined by the local MG Coordinator, in the context of current OSU Extension Master Gardener guidelines and policy	Marion Polk Food Share (MPFS) monthly sorting/packing food, Liberty House, SWCD Native Plant Sale or others approved by Neil.
Other Approved Activities	Indirect	As determined by the local MG Coordinator, facilitates efforts of those who are teaching	Wetlands project at Chemeketa Youth Farm, Bug group at NWREC (North Willamette Research & Extension Ctr.) other NWREC projects, the drought tolerant project at Oregon Gardens.
⌘ Other Approved Activities	Direct	As determined by the local MG Coordinator, activity that directly increases knowledge and promotes sustainable gardening	Projects that are pre-approved by Neil.

### **Definition of Continuing Education (CE) Hours:**

An important part of being a MG is staying current on the latest in horticultural science. To maintain an “active” status, members must complete 10 CE hours each year by 10/31. CE hours are hours that you spend being educated. CE status is granted to educational programs/workshops/classes/lectures/ webinars and reading OSU approved literature that supports a volunteer’s ability to deliver research-based and objective gardening information to the general public. The activity should be pre-approved before participation.

**Certified MG's:** The completion of Continuing Education (CE) hours are required in order to participate in activities that are classified as “**Direct**”. In Marion County that includes the following categories: Plant Clinics, Educational Garden, Instructor, Educational Writing and Other Approved Projects that are research based.

**Trainees:** Continuing Education (CE) hours are **not** required for trainees. If you attend any activity where you are being educated, the hours should be recorded in the VRS as “CE” and will count towards a 100 hour bar. However, they will **not** count towards your 66 required hours of volunteer service.

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

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