

Kane County Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities 2019

Required Volunteer Activities

Help Desk

Certified MGs – 8 hours; Interns – 28 hours

Answer homeowner's gardening questions. This is widely used by the public with many repeat clients. This is our major public service project. Walk-in clients are frequent during the growing season. Interns are required to work 30 hours at the Help Desk before they can receive their certification. Interns should sign up with an experienced MG for the first few times.

Certified MGs are required to work 8 hours (2 shifts) per year.

Time & Dates: M-W-F in March & October 10:00 – 2:00

M-F in April through September 10:00 – 2:00

Leader: Coordinate volunteers and oversee organization

Volunteers: 2 volunteers sign up for 4 hour shifts

Idea Garden

Interns - 15 hours

Time & Dates: work days – Tuesdays 8 – 11 am or as needed

Location: Peck Road and Route 38 St. Charles

Bed Heads: Lorna Marquis, Susan Brauhn, Margaret-ann Haas

Volunteers: interns - 15 hours required. Certified MGs are not required but its loads of fun.

Work in teams to create a garden plot that demonstrates an idea that the average homeowner can replicate in their own back yard.

Idea Garden Open Days

Time & Dates – to be determined – no signup yet

Location: Peck Road and Route 38, St. Charles

Optional Volunteer Activities

Ag Days at Mooseheart

Ag Days is an event put on by the Farm Bureau to promote agricultural education. MGs have a prepared Herman the Worm presentation.

Date: 2 days in March

Location: Mooseheart Fieldhouse

Ball Horticultural Garden Tours & Conservancy Day

This project is suspended for the season. Ball is renovating their gardens.

Column in KC Chronicle

We write a weekly column in the Kane County Chronicle each summer. Interested volunteers must submit writing sample. April –September weekly column

Volunteers: *We currently have enough volunteers for this project.*

Fabyan Japanese Garden Guide

Guides are stationed in the garden and provide information to the public.

Location: Fabyan Forest Preserve on Route 31 and Fabyan Parkway, Geneva

Dates: Sundays, May 5– October 13, from 1:00 – 4:00

Leader: Ellen Bassett

Gardener's Corners Distribution

Deliver Gardener's Corners to local business, libraries, etc.

Date: At your leisure. Leader: Paula Mytych

Volunteers: We are shooting for countywide distribution. Everyone's help is needed.

Geneva Beautification

A beautiful planting located near Starbucks in Geneva. MGs plan, plant and tend the garden.

Leader: Karen King

Location: Corner of Roosevelt Road and 3rd Street

Day/Time: workdays are scheduled in the spring and fall and maintained as needed.

Planting dates: Saturday, April 13 at 8:00 am Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 am

 Saturday, August 24 at 8:00 am Clean up: Saturday, November 2 at 8:00

Girl Scout Camp Dean

A variety of projects that help girls learn about nature and gardening. Currently the team is working on creating a nature and science center, trail guides and possibly work in their greenhouse.

Leader: Susan Swing

Location: Camp Dean, Big Rock

Day/Time: varies, can work independently and with the team

Growing Place Dirt Days

Set up stations with children's activities at The Growing Place.

Leader: committee led

Location: The Growing Place 2000 Montgomery Road, Aurora

Dates: Thursdays – July 12, July 26, August 9 from 10 am – 12:00.

Horticulture Therapy

Monthly sessions at area nursing homes. Plan, prepare and present a different activity each month.

Highland Oaks

Leader: committee

Dates: 2nd Monday of the month 9:30 – 10:30

Location: 2750 W. Highland Ave, Elgin

River Glen (Delnor Glen) -

Leader: committee

Dates: fourth Friday of the month at 1:30 pm

Location: 975 N Fifth Ave, St. Charles

Volunteers: *We currently have enough volunteers for this project.*

Herman the Worm Presenter

Present the Herman the Worm curriculum in schools.

Location: Varies

Dates: Varies

Insect Zookeeper

Assist in caring for the insect zoo. Sign up to stop by the office to refill food, water, and check on our multi-legged friends.

Dates: Mondays and Fridays, about 30 minutes

Kane County Fair

Update and coordinate set up of the fair display board and staff the booth.

Date: July 19 – setup

July 20-22 staff the booth 2-4 pm and 4-6 pm

Mooseheart Garden

Advise and help adults and children plant their garden.

Dates: ongoing

Location: Mooseheart Greenhouse

Northgate Beautification

A beautiful planting in beautiful downtown St. Charles.

Leader: Nancy Cox

Location: Northgate and Route 31 in St. Charles

Dates: workdays are scheduled in the spring and fall, and as needed.

Prairie & Rain Gardens

A demonstration garden located near the Idea Garden. Tend, plant and weed as needed.

Leader: Mary Jo Murphy

Location: Peck Road and Hwy 38

Days/Time: First Tuesday of the month.

Clean up dates: TBD

Regular work days: May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug 6, Sept 3, Oct 1 (if needed) 9:00 – 11:00 am

Sherman Hospital Community Garden

Offer educational assistance in the garden

Location: Sherman Hospital grounds, 1425 N Randall Road, Elgin

Date/Time: to be determined by group. Evening hours available.

Social Event Planner

Earn volunteer time planning or hosting a social event. Ideas include: Cantigny tour, Anderson Japanese Garden, CBG, Seed Savers, Rotary Garden. Or host the MGs at your house and show off your garden. Volunteer time is reportable for the times spent organizing the event (not weeding your own garden, though).

Speakers Bureau Presenters and Assistants

Specially trained MGs do presentations at libraries, garden clubs, schools, etc. We are working on getting this program more actively promoted. We use our most experienced MGs for this project. Assistants learn to be a speaker by watching and helping.

Dates & Locations: vary

St Charles Library Help Desk

Set up a mobile help desk in the air-conditioned library.

Dates: May 25, June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27

Location: St Charles Public Library, pick up info tote the week before & return after

Training Informational Meeting

Help plan and present this year's Master Gardener training informational meeting.

Leader: Sarah

Dates: planning meeting – Thursday, April 18 at 9:30

Possible info meeting dates: June 18, 19 or 20

Location: Extension office

Youth Programs

Assist with presentations at local elementary schools. Topics vary, days and time vary but generally during school year, during the day.