



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



**University of Illinois Extension, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit
Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Volunteer Application**

CONTACT INFO:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ Best time to call _____

BACKGROUND SCREENING INFORMATION:

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? Yes____ No____ If yes, please attach a sheet to explain. A conviction will not necessarily disqualify an application. A conviction will be considered as it relates to the specifics of the position for which you have applied.

Have you lived in another state other than Illinois in the last seven years? Yes____ No____ If yes, please attach a separate sheet indicating state where you have lived during the last seven years including dates.

I, authorize the University of Illinois to contact listed references, a national background check, a DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS) background check, and other sources as necessary. Extension staff will contact you via email to complete the background check via Sterling Volunteers website.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING:

Further, I agree to complete Protection of Minors training mandated by University of Illinois Extension and to follow any rules related to the University's Protection of Minors Policy, including mandated reporting to the University of Illinois Police Department (217-333-1216) and a University of Illinois Extension employee of the unit for which I am volunteering (e.g., County Director). New volunteers need to complete online University of Illinois Extension Child Protection Training. extension.illinois.edu/extensionprotection/
After completing the training, print the certificate and mail to Extension office

PHOTO/VIDEO/AUDIO RELEASE: Yes No

I, the undersigned, do hereby consent to the use by The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois ("University") of my image, voice, or both, in (1) the video, photograph, or audio recording; and (2) any video, photograph, or audio recording reproduced either in whole or in part from the video, photograph or audio recording; regardless of whether these materials are used for fundraising, advertising, publicity, or any other purpose on behalf of either the University or its Foundation. I warrant that I have the full right and authority to grant this consent. In addition, I waive all claims to compensation or damages based on the use of my image or voice, or both, by either the University or the Foundation. I also waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photograph or video or audio recording. I understand that this consent is perpetual, that I may not revoke it, and that it is binding on me, my heirs and assigns. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned, or that I am the parent or legal guardian authorized to sign on behalf of a person under age 18. I further attest that I have read this consent form and fully understand its contents.

I understand that I must be officially accepted before beginning my volunteer position. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of facts requested in this application is cause for rejection as an Extension volunteer. I agree to fulfill the responsibilities of this volunteer position to the best of my ability if appointed. I understand that failure to comply with the rules may lead to dismissal from this volunteer position.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MASTER GARDENER/MASTER NATURALIST VOLUNTEER QUESTIONS:

Why do you want to become a University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener/Master Naturalist?

Have you had any previous affiliations with the University of Illinois and/or Extension? Yes _____ No _____

Are you available for classroom training during regular daytime business hours? Yes _____ No _____

Are you available to volunteer time during regular daytime business hours? Yes _____ No _____

Are you employed? Yes _____ No _____

Have you been in another Master Gardener/Master Naturalist program? Yes _____ No _____ If so, where and when:

Have you been a volunteer in another Extension program? Yes _____ No _____ If so, where and when:

Describe your present and previous work experience: (List current or most recent experience first.)

EMPLOYER	JOB TITLE	YEARS

Describe volunteer roles with any other community groups: (List current or most recent experience first.)

ORGANIZATION	VOLUNTEER ROLE	YEARS

List skills, training and education:

There are many opportunities for volunteering in different programs. At this time you may be unsure about how you may volunteer. Please check all activities that interest you:

- _____ Talk to children about natural areas, environmental issues, conduct workshops, or interpretive tours with youth
- _____ Help develop/maintain demonstration areas
- _____ Assist with area restorations, plant control, collection of native seeds, plant propagation
- _____ Serve on programming or advisory committee
- _____ Assist with inventories
- _____ Serve as reference librarian
- _____ Write newsletter articles or news releases
- _____ Other _____

If you are accepted into the Master Gardener/Master Naturalist Program and you successfully complete the minimum hours of training, do you agree to fulfill the required hours of volunteer service in approved activities within 2 years following? Yes _____ No _____

**Extension Participant/Volunteer
AGREEMENT TO ASSUME RISKS AND FULLY RELEASE ALL CLAIMS**

Risks of Extension Activities. I understand that my participation in University of Illinois Extension activities can present risks of physical injury (including death or disability) to me and damage to my personal property. The University of Illinois does not guarantee my personal health or safety or protect me against property loss. Physical injury to me or property damage may result from known or unexpected risks arising from things such as: use of equipment, materials, or facilities; environmental conditions, including poisonous plants, insects, and extreme heat or cold and other weather-related hazards; natural disasters; water activities; transportation; actions of others; animal behaviors; unavailability of immediate or adequate emergency care; infectious diseases; and slips and falls.

Risks of 4-H Equine Activities. Equine (horse, pony, mule, donkey, or hinny) activities present dangerous risks of injury and harm, regardless of the safety measures taken. If a horse or other equine animal is frightened or provoked, I understand that it might ignore its training and act according to its natural survival instincts, which may include actions such as unexpected change of directions or speed; running; sudden movement or stopping; shifting weight; bucking; rearing; kicking; and biting. I understand that **UNDER THE ILLINOIS EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY ACT, EACH PARTICIPANT WHO ENGAGES IN AN EQUINE ACTIVITY EXPRESSLY ASSUMES THE RISK OF ENGAGING IN AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INJURY, LOSS, OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY RESULTING FROM THE RISK OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES.** *Risk of equine activities* means dangers including but not limited to: (1) propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm or death to persons on or around them; (2) unpredictability of an equine's reaction to sounds, sudden movement, and unfamiliar objects, persons, other animals or other things; (3) certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions; (4) collisions with other equines or objects; and (5) the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within his or her ability.

Risks of 4-H Shooting Sports Activities: Shooting sports involve the use of firearms, live ammunition, or archery equipment. I understand that there are inherent dangers associated with my participation in shooting sports, including observation. The potential dangers include, among other things, gunshot or archery wounds that can result in paralysis or loss of vision, limb, or life.

Assumption of Risks and Release of Claims: In consideration for allowing me to participate in Extension activities, I voluntarily assume all risk of injury and loss that I may sustain or suffer in connection with my participation in the activities described in this Agreement, and I forever and fully release, waive, and discharge all claims, demands, actions, and causes of action, known or unknown, that I have or that may accrue to me in the future ("Claims") against the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, its officers, employees, agents, and volunteers (individually a "Releasee") for personal injuries (including death), damage to property, and all liabilities, losses, costs, and expenses (including attorney fees) arising out of or resulting from my participation in Extension activities, including all Claims arising, in whole or in part, from the negligence of any Releasee. This Agreement is binding on my heirs, assigns, and representatives.

Effective Date: This Agreement is effective on the date signed by me ("Effective Date") and replaces any similar agreements previously signed by me as to Extension activities that occur on or after the Effective Date.

PARTICIPANT/VOLUNTEER SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

PRINTED NAME: _____ **BIRTHDATE:** _____

HOME STREET ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP:** _____ **PHONE:** _____ **EMAIL:** _____

IF PARTICIPANT/VOLUNTEER IS UNDER 18 YEARS OLD:

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

PRINTED NAME: _____ **PHONE/EMAIL:** _____

State of Illinois
Department of Children and Family Services

AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK
Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS)
For Programs NOT Licensed by DCFS

NOTE: Do not use this form if you are an applicant for licensure or an employee/volunteer of a licensed child care facility. Please contact your licensing representative.

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Date of Birth: -- -- Gender: Male Female Race: _____

Current Address: _____
Street/Apt #

City State Zip Code

If you currently reside in Illinois, please list all previous addresses for the past five years.

OR

If you currently reside out-of-state, please provide ALL Illinois addresses in which you did reside while living in Illinois.

(Street/Apt#/City/County/State/Zip Code)	Dates From/To
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

List maiden name and/or all other names by which you have been known: (last, first, middle)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I hereby authorize the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to conduct a search of the Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking system (CANTS) to determine whether I have been a perpetrator of an indicated incident of child abuse and/or neglect or involved in a pending investigation. I further consent to the release of this information to the agency listed below.

Signed Date

Submit by mail OR fax OR email.
Mail to: Department of Children and Family Services 406 E. Monroe – Station # 30 Springfield, IL 62701
FAX to: 217-782-3991
Scan/Email to: CFS689Background@illinois.gov

Please type, use bold letters or label:

_____	(Submitting Agency Fax Number)
dbalagna@illinois.edu	(Submitting Email Address)
_____	(Agency Name)
University of Illinois Extension, Peoria	(Contact Person)
Deb Balagna	(Address)
15411 N IL 100 Highway	(City/State/Zip)
Lewistown, IL 61542-9468	

Print Form