

Southwind District MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

2026 Application

County: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Office): _____

Mission: The Southwind District Extension *Master Gardener Program* is a volunteer organization designed to provide the public with sound horticultural information.

Guidelines for *Master Gardener Program* Participation: Admission to the *Master Gardener Program* requires that the applicant:

- ◆ Be a Southwind District (Allen, Neosho, Bourbon, and Woodson County) resident, or agree to repay your commitment of Volunteer service in the Southwind District.
- ◆ Have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- ◆ Possess a broad interest in horticulture.
- ◆ Support the objectives of the *Master Gardener Program* and the Extension Programs of the Southwind District Extension Council.
- ◆ Be able to read and comprehend an extensive notebook of support materials to be used for future reference.
- ◆ Complete the basic *Master Gardener Training Course*.
- ◆ Complete the 40 hours of volunteer work with Extension Agent-approved projects following basic course completion.
- ◆ Continuation as a *Master Gardener* in good standing requires completion of 8 hours of Advanced Master Gardener training and a minimum of 20 volunteer hours annually.

Present Occupation:

Employed Full Time: _____

Homemaker: _____

Employed Part Time: _____

Retired: _____

Will your employment or other regular commitments allow you to be available to participate in the Basic *Master Gardener Training Course* and in required volunteer activities? Yes ___ No ___

Gardening Experience: Please describe any training courses or experience you have had in gardening.

Check area (s) of specialization or experience:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annuals | <input type="checkbox"/> House Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and Shrubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art or drawing | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> Perennials | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain) |

Garden Group Affiliation(s):

Other associated volunteer activities:

Your role as a *Master Gardener*:

As a trained *Master Gardener*, how would you rank your enjoyment of the following types of activity: (1 indicates the most enjoyable, 5 the least)

	Research some horticultural topics and prepare an article or report on your findings.
	Participate in a discussion group with other <i>Master Gardeners</i> .
	Lead a discussion with neighbors on gardening practices.
	Instruct a class on pruning fruit trees or some other specific topic.
	Teach young children about gardening basics.
	Organize a neighborhood growing group.
	Work in a garden.
	Design and plant a garden.

Explain briefly why you wish to become a *Master Gardener*.

Thank you for your interest in the *Master Gardener Program* and for completing the application. Please return your completed application by August 15, 2026. Applications will be carefully reviewed, and applicants will be contacted no later than August 28, 2026.

AGREEMENT

I wish to become a Southwind District Extension *Master Gardener Trainee* and would be available for the training session, which begins September 3, 2026, and continues each Thursday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm through December 3, 2026. Training will be offered in a hybrid format. Five all-day, in-person training sessions will be held at the Southwind Extension District Office in Iola, Kansas. The remaining training sessions will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

I understand that, if accepted into the Training Program, I am entering into a contract to return 40 hours of volunteer time to communicate research-based horticultural information to the public by October 1st of the following year, after completing the basic training course. I further understand that continuation as an active *Master Gardener* in good standing requires completion of both 8 hours of *Advanced Master Gardener Training* and a minimum of 20 volunteer hours annually. I also understand that I will be required to pay a \$95.00 fee to help cover the costs of the *Master Gardener* notebook and meeting expenses.

Master Gardener volunteers may not participate in the Southwind District Extension *Master Gardener Program* for personal gain or for commercial recommendations or endorsements. *Master Gardeners* are expected to provide recommendations based on research-based information and to provide educational program assistance in support of the general County / District Extension education program.

***Master Gardeners* operate under the control of a trained Extension professional responsible for monitoring their performance and the progress of their continuing education.**

Signed,

Master Gardener Applicant

Date

Please return your completed application to Krista Harding by August 15, 2026.

Email: kharding@ksu.edu

Mail: 111 S. Butler, Erie, KS 66733