

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 29, 2026

Name:

Date:



Mission: The mission of the Johnson County K-State Extension Master Gardener volunteer program, hereinafter named "Program," is to preserve and beautify the environment and improve the quality of life in the community by providing current research-based horticultural information to the public. The Program promotes horticultural practices, sustainability, and environmental initiatives supported by K-State Extension. The Program embodies the horticultural education objectives of the Johnson County Extension Council in cooperation with Kansas State University and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Guidelines for Extension Master Garden (EMG) Program Participation:

- Be a resident of Johnson County
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Possess a broad interest in horticulture
- Understand the value of volunteering
- Comply with the policies, rules, and regulations of the Extension Master Gardener Program and the Johnson County Extension Council.
- Attend the approximately 65-hour required EMG Basic Training Course held on Thursdays from 9:00 am-12:00 pm and from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Sessions are a mix of in-person and online. These classes are required. Classes run from September 3 through December 10, 2026. A schedule of class activities will be provided once you have been accepted into the program.
- Complete 40 hours of volunteer activities beginning in 2027 with Advisory Board-authorized projects, including at least three (3) EMG Hotline shifts, 3 hours of community education and outreach, and 3 hours of youth education on or before September 1, 2027.
- After successful completion of the EMG training program, to continue as an EMG requires an annual commitment to volunteer a minimum of 30 hours on volunteer projects and attend at least 10 hours of EMG advanced training = 40 hours
- Agree to support the Extension pest control policy based on a combination of sound horticulture practices, organic controls, and chemical treatment as necessary.
- Pay a \$125 entrance fee (after acceptance into the program).

Selection for the EMG program is based on your responses to this application. Please reply to all questions in a complete and informative way but keep your answers brief and concise. DO NOT exceed the original length of the page or attach extra pages.

Name:

Date:

1. Why do you want to be an EMG?

Name:

Date:

2. Time Availability and Commitment to Volunteering

a. I am committed to attending all basic training classes. Please respond to the yes/no question after reading the following statements regarding training:

Basic training is every Thursday starting September 3 and runs through December 10, 2026.

- Attendance is required except for preapproved absences, which shall not exceed more than one.
- All morning sessions are in-person. Content includes garden visits, committee chats from garden/committee chairs, and other basic gardening knowledge, etc. The purpose of the morning sessions is to share about our specific program, and each session is in-person.
- Afternoon sessions are on Zoom, which allows flexibility in obtaining the content. The sessions are provided by K-State horticulture staff.

YES NO

b. Please describe your availability and known conflicts such as travel dates, medical leave, etc. for the training described above.

c. I am committed to volunteering in the EMG program. YES NO

EMG Volunteer activities occur on weekdays and on the weekend. Describe your free time to engage in volunteer activities.

3. Volunteer Experience

Tell us about your volunteering experience. Briefly discuss why/where you are a volunteer. What do you enjoy most about them and why? If this will be your first opportunity as a volunteer, please let us know that. Your application will not be impacted if you do not have volunteer experience.

Name:

Date:

4. Please respond to each statement and how that best describes you.

How are you ENERGIZED?

1 2 3 4 5

I am more comfortable...	Doing things for people	Being with people
When doing a task, I tend to ...	Focus on the goal	Focus on relationships
I get more excited about...	Advancing a cause	Creating community
I feel I have accomplished something when I have...	Completed the job	Built a relationship
It is more important to start a meeting...	On time	When everyone gets there
I am more concerned with ...	Meeting a deadline	Maintaining the team
I place a higher value on....	Action	Communication
I am more comfortable...	Working on my own	Working in a group

How are you ORGANIZED?

1 2 3 4 5

In life, I generally prefer to ...	Be spontaneous	Follow a set plan
I prefer to set guidelines that are...	General	Specific
I prefer to...	Leave my options open	Settle things now
I prefer projects that have...	Variety	Routine
I like to...	Play it by ear	Stick to a plan
I find routine...	Boring	Restful
I accomplish tasks best...	By working it out as I go	By following a plan

5. Abilities/Talents/Expertise that you have – Please check all that apply.

- Accounting/Bookkeeping
- Adapting on the fly
- Analyzing information
- Artistic
- Big picture thinker
- Fundraising
- Data input
- Engaging with new people
- Graphic design
- Managing multi-faceted projects and/or processes
- Leadership roles
- Photography
- Proficient at Excel, PowerPoint, Word, InDesign
- Project management
- Promotion/advertising
- Proofreading
- Public speaking
- Recruiting people
- Researching
- Trouble-shooting issues
- Videography
- Writing

Name:

Date:

6. EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER AREAS OF INTEREST

Please indicate your interest in participating in **each** of the EMG volunteer projects. Some activities require physical work or interaction with the public, while others concentrate on planning and administrative tasks. All activities are vital to the success of the EMG organization in fulfilling its mission to the community.

Place an x in each box that matches your interest level for the specific projects listed on pages 5-6.

A = Very Interested B = Interested C = Not Interested D = Unsure until I learn more

Demonstration Gardens (Designed, planted, and maintained to help educate the public in plant selection, culture, and environmental stewardship.)

A	B	C	D	
				Blue Valley Wilderness Science Center: Butterfly and bird gardens to support Blue Valley school programs at 163 rd and Nall.
				Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead: flower and vegetable gardens at 137 th and Switzer in O.P.
				Dennis Patton Garden Gallery: Showcasing recommended trees, shrubs, and flowers for Kansas City Gardens; 119 th and Ridgeview Olathe.
				K-State Research Center Backyard Garden: Vegetable, flower, and pollinator gardens and horticulture research plots in Western Olathe.
				Food Forest at Johnson County Community College: Permaculture, sustainable garden strategies
				Overland Park Arboretum—Monet Garden: This garden features trees, shrubs, and flowers in the Monet Style at 179 th and Antioch, Overland Park.
				Shawnee Indian Mission: A mid-1800s period vegetable garden, rain garden, and native plants at this Kansas historical site on Mission Rd. north of Shawnee Mission Parkway.
				Shawnee Town Gardens: Historical and theme gardens located in Shawnee Town on Johnson Dr. in downtown Shawnee.
				Wassmer Park: Intimate Garden in Prairie Village showcasing annuals, perennials, and shrubs.
				West Flanders: Belgium-themed garden in Shawnee, includes herbs, vegetables, perennials, and natives.

Community Outreach (Participate in projects to help educate the community.)

A	B	C	D	
				Community Outreach Tabling Events: Staff information tables at community events where the public can learn more about the EMG program and ask gardening questions.
				Community Education Speaking Events: Research, prepare, and present talks on various horticultural subjects to garden clubs, church groups, and community group. Plan, design, and construct displays, exhibits, handouts, and brochures to support EMG activities.
				Evergreen Horticulture Therapy Project: Maintain vegetable and flower beds and interact with the residents, staff, and families who visit the senior living center at 119 th and Ridgeview, Olathe.
				Johnson County Developmental Support: We provide Horticultural Therapy for the Garden Club of Johnson County Developmental Support (JCDS). Our work accompanies the staff's focus on providing best practices support for the physical and emotional needs of individuals. These residents have varying levels of need. JCDS is focused on maintaining a sense of community.

A	B	C	D
			Johnson County Developmental Support: We provide Horticultural Therapy for the Garden Club of Johnson County Developmental Support (JCDS). Our work accompanies the staff's focus on providing best practices support for the physical and emotional needs of individuals. These residents have varying levels of need. JCDS is focused on maintaining a sense of community.
			Hotline: Supply research-based responses to telephone, walk-in, and email questions. You are required to work three 3.5-hour shifts on the hotline in your first year for a total of 11 hours.
			Jr. Master Gardener Activities: Plan and participate in after-school programs and special community events that encourage children's interest in gardening. Youth education is the focus of this work. You are required to work 3 hours working with youth in your first year.
			Public Garden Tour: Assist with the planning, coordination, promotion, preparation, and staffing of the biennial public tour of EMG gardens (2026, 2028, etc.).
			Wildlife Habitat: provide education to help develop nature-friendly landscapes.

EMG Program Support Services

A	B	C	D
			Merchandise: Coordinate the selection, creation, and sale of garden-related merchandise to be sold during EMG events.
			Training and Tours: Plan, arrange, and promote programs, tours, and seminars to satisfy needs of EMGs for continuing education.
			Special Forces Tech: Assist with technology, experience with Microsoft Office products, data entry, Outlook, etc.
			Special Forces Projects: Social and Entertainment, Clerical tasks, photography, proofreading/editing, other tasks as needed.

Area of Greatest Interest:

Please select **two projects** from **question 6** and briefly explain why each appeals to you the most.

SIGNATURE OF UNDERSTANDING

Thank you for your interest in the EMG program and for completing this application. Members of the Advisory Board will carefully consider it.

EMGs operate under the guidance of trained extension professionals who are responsible for monitoring their performance and the progress of their continuing education.

EMGs are expected to provide gardening advice based on research-based information and to provide educational program assistance in support of the general county Extension education program.

EMG volunteers may not participate in the Johnson County Extension EMG program for financial gain or for commercial credentials, recommendations, or endorsements.

I wish to become a Johnson County EMG Trainee and agree to abide by the qualifications for acceptance and continued commitment as described in the Guidelines for EMG Program Participation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number (Home): _____

Telephone Number (Cell/Business): _____

Email: _____

Note: EMG communication occurs by email.

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Emergency Phone: _____

Publicity Release (Click on or check one of the boxes below)

I authorize K-State Research and Extension or their assignees to record, video, and photograph my image and/or voice for use in research, educational, and promotional programs. I also recognize that these audio, video, and image recordings are the property of K-State Research and Extension.

No, I do not authorize use of my individual image or voice.

**Mail to: Johnson County K-State Research and Extension 11811 S.
Sunset Drive, Suite 1500
Olathe, KS 66061-7057
Attention: Christy McCombs**

Email to: Christy.McCombs@jocogov.org

K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities, and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, please contact Johnson County Extension at 913.715.7000. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.