

# **What counts for credit in the Bullitt County Master Gardener Program?**

At times, Master Gardeners get confused about whether they can claim an hour as a VOLUNTEER (Community Service) hour or as a TRAINING hour. If you find yourself wondering, ask the question, “Who was the primary beneficiary of the activity?”

If the public was benefiting from your role in the educational activity, it probably qualifies as a VOLUNTEER hour. On the other hand, if YOU were the primary benefactor of the activity, it probably qualifies as TRAINING for you.

## **Examples of acceptable VOLUNTEER hours**

- Giving or assisting with a seminar for a youth group, seniors group, service club, church group, etc.
- Answering questions from general public at a Master Gardener booth at county fair.
- Teaching a session for next Master Gardener intern class
- Writing an article for the local news media about gardening (Approved, edited and sent to media by Extension office).
- Assisting the local Park system by labeling plants along the nature trail.
- Time spent preparing handouts and visual aids for seminars.

## **Examples of Activities that DO NOT Qualify As VOLUNTEER hours**

- Answering customer questions while on the job at Joe’s Greenhouse as a paid employee.
- Planting flowers at the local park. (Labor, not education)
- Designing landscapes for local Habitat for Humanity projects. (Labor, not education)
- Volunteer to pull garlic mustard for local native plant society. (Labor, not education)
- Judging 4-H garden projects at a county fair and accepting a judge’s fee. (Don’t take the fee!)
- Mowing grass for the local hospital. (Labor, not education)
- Answering your neighbor’s gardening question(s)
- Travel time to a local meeting.
- Being a host garden on the Garden Tour (too difficult to assess what was VOLUNTEER, what was normal activity)

**Note: You might be able to modify some of these labor-type activities by incorporating some education into the process (example: teach the Habitat for Humanity homeowners how to design, plant and care for their landscape.**

## **Examples of hours that qualify as Continuing Education Training Hours**

- Attending a seminar in which you did not help to organize the talk.
- Attending a MMGA monthly meeting
- Attending a trade show or flower and patio show (don’t include travel time)
- Participating in a MMGA bus trip to Botanical Gardens.

## **Examples of hours that cannot be used as Continuing Education Training Hours**

- Watching gardening shows on television or video.
- Reading gardening magazines.

Attending a seminar that you helped organize and will be claiming as VOLUNTEER time for. (You can either claim it as a VOLUNTEER effort or as TRAINING you received, not both!)

**Note: All hours must be pre-approved and signed off on by your Extension Sponsor.**