



University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Central-NEK Chapter

Scholarship Application for the 2024 Extension Master Gardener Course

About the Scholarship:

Recipients will receive a \$150 scholarship from the Central-NEK Chapter to be applied to the 2024 Extension Master Gardener course. Scholarships are given to help lower barriers to participation in the EMG program and the Central-NEK Chapter. However, as an all-volunteer organization, the Central-NEK Chapter has limited funds. In the event a recipient is unable to fulfill requirements for EMG certification, the recipient is expected to, in good faith, reimburse the Chapter for the full cost of the scholarship.

NOTE: Recipients who have fully paid for the course prior to receiving a scholarship will be reimbursed \$150 from the Central-NEK Chapter.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must live in Caledonia, Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, or Washington County;
- Enroll in the course as a Track 1 (Volunteer Certification Track)* student;
- Must be willing to give a presentation to the Chapter about their experiences/knowledge gained from the course; and
- Must participate in Chapter group email/meetings, learning opportunities, and other events that are hosted by the Central-NEK Chapter.

Application Deadline:

The completed application and the signed Memorandum of Understanding, must be emailed to Sue Lucas, lucsue@gmail.com, by **5:00 pm E.T. on Friday, December 15, 2023**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered. All applicants will be notified of the results by January 5, 2024.

About the Course:

The University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener program will offer its signature course during winter/spring 2024. Registration is open from November 1 until the deadline of January 12, 2024. This is a 16-week non-credit online course that covers the fundamentals of home gardening and is focused on evidence-based plant and soil sciences. Topics include botany basics, soil management, annuals and perennials, insect and disease pest management, fruit and vegetable production and planning, garden pollinator habitat, tree care, and sustainable landscape design.

For 2024, the Extension Master Gardener course will start on January 19, 2024. Track 1 (volunteer certification) students must attend live Zoom sessions each Thursday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. starting on January 25 and running through May 9. The course portal closes to all students on May 23.

For details about the course, please visit the website at: <http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/>.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Debra Heleba at debra.heleba@uvm.edu 802-656-1777 by December 15, 2023 so we may assist you.

*Please note: Track 1 students are required to complete a volunteer application, background check consent form, and a Minor Protection training.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

Central-NEK Chapter Scholarship Application

Email the completed application by no later than 5 p.m. ET on December 15, 2023 to Sue Lucas, Central-NEK Chapter Chair at lucsue@gmail.com

Name:

Street address:

Mailing address if different:

City/Town:

Zip code:

Email address:

Phone number:

Please answer the following questions (on a separate page), limiting each answer to no more than 150 words.

1. Please share how you might fulfill your commitment to volunteer 20 hours/ year for the next two years toward EMG certification.
2. Do you agree to volunteer under the guidance of a Certified EMG Mentor (if available) who has been selected by the EMG Chapter Steering Team? If yes, please share what types of support you would benefit from a mentor.
3. How will you contribute to the goal of Extension Master Gardeners to promote successful, safe and environmentally prudent home horticulture practices through education and community activities?
4. What is your area of interest in gardening? Flowers? Landscape? Vegetables?
5. Describe your experience and level of expertise as a gardener (please note that scholarship selections will not be based on the level of your gardening experience).

Memorandum of Understanding

2024 UVM Extension Master Gardener Course Scholarship

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of the applicant's interest in the UVM Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program and commitment to participate in Extension Master Gardener events and projects. Upon successful completion of the 2024 Extension Master Gardener Course as a Track 1 student, the recipient agrees to pursue a 40-hour internship within a two-year period. As an EMG Intern, the recipient agrees to volunteer under the guidance of a Certified EMG Mentor (if available) who has been selected by the EMG Chapter Steering Team. The EMG Mentor will help the intern select an approved project. This project will provide hands-on gardening experience as well as exposure to chapter communication and operations. The recipient is also expected to participate in chapter learning opportunities, annual plant sale and other events that their local Extension Master Gardener Chapter hosts.

Selection Criteria:

The Chapter Steering Committee will meet to determine Scholarship recipients. Criteria will be based on:

- A commitment to complete the Extension Master Gardener internship and earn EMG certification.
- A commitment to work with a mentor (if available) who will support you during your internship.
- A commitment to share acquired knowledge with fellow EMG's and the general public.
- A commitment to be an active volunteer on Chapter projects and events.

If selected, I understand the expectations and selection criteria outlined above. My signature confirms my commitment to this agreement.

Printed Name

Date

Signature