

University of Vermont Extension Community Horticulture Programs

Partner Commitment Form

The purpose of this form is to confirm your organization's commitment to host an Extension Master Gardener (EMG) or Vermont Master Composter (VMC) project at your site.

The form must be completed, signed, dated and uploaded to the volunteer's project application at the time it is submitted. To that end, please fully complete the form and send to the volunteer with whom you are working. Thank you.

Proposed Project Name: _____

Volunteer Project Leader: _____

Assurance of project host / partner organization

For this project, I affirm that I am an employee or authorized representative of:

(name of your organization/institution/municipality).

Should this project move forward as an approved EMG/VMC project, I will be the primary contact at my organization/institution/municipality as the partner/host organization for this project.

As such, I understand that:

Extension Master Gardener/Composter volunteers involved with this project may conduct gardening/compost outreach and education on research-based gardening/compost topics but do not earn volunteer hours for maintaining gardens/compost without teaching in some capacity. Further, fundraising, office support, and committee work for my organization is not eligible for program volunteer hours. Volunteers may not be paid for their efforts when volunteering as an EMG or VMC.

While the act of gardening is a common bond among Extension Master Gardener/Composter volunteers, the program's primary purpose is community service through education (not garden maintenance). Therefore, I will support volunteer efforts to serve our community through the education of current and potential home gardeners/composters using research-based information.

Since EMG and VMC volunteers are focused on conducting education on our site, to the extent permitted by law, I agree that our organization shall indemnify and hold harmless UVM and its volunteers from and against any liabilities, damages, or claims (including attorney's fees) arising out of any injuries (including death) or property damage suffered by any person as a result of non-educational project activities occurring on the site.

My organization will publicly acknowledge volunteer support from the UVM Extension Master Gardener/Composter program, including agreeing to post our project sign, adding the logo and

information about the volunteer project on our website, posting information about the project on social media, and/or publicizing educational events offered by volunteers as appropriate.

Upon request, I will provide the state office with information about the project's impact to our organization and community.

If the project works with youth, we understand that EMG/VMC volunteers do not have care, custody and control of minors and therefore will ensure that our organization provides proper supervision of minors with persons that do have care, custody, and control of minors.

If the volunteer project leader is unable to fulfill their duties to organize and lead the project, the state office will seek to find a replacement to continue the project. If the project is unable to continue, volunteers will do their best to relocate plants if desired. Upon termination of a project, all garden activities will be the responsibility of the host organization.

If any problems arise with the project, I will first directly communicate with the project leader (listed above); if not resolved, I will reach out to the State Coordinator to reach resolution.

As the representative of the project's partner/host organization, I have read this document and I am agreeing to the terms of the partnership outlined above.

Signature

Date

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____