

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

(Volunteer copy)

This Standards of Behavior is a contractual agreement accepted by volunteers who commit to the Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program. The Standards of Behavior shall guide the volunteers' behavior during their involvement with the Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Just as it is a privilege for Ohio State University Extension to work with individuals who volunteer their time, energy and talent to the Master Gardener Volunteer Program, a volunteer's involvement in the Program is a privilege and a responsibility, not a right.

The OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program provides unbiased, research-based educational programs accessible to all Ohio residents. The primary purpose of this Standards of Behavior is to ensure the safety and well-being of all Master Gardener Volunteer Program participants (i.e., target audiences, professionals and volunteers.)

Master Gardener Volunteers are expected to function within the guidelines of Ohio State University Extension and the OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

The OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer will:

- Uphold volunteerism as an effective way to meet the horticultural needs of Ohio residents.
- Uphold an individual's right to dignity, self-development, and self-direction.
- Accept supervision and support from professional Extension staff while involved in the program.
- Accept the responsibility to represent their individual county Master Gardener Volunteer Program and the Ohio Master Gardener Volunteer Program with dignity and pride by being positive mentors for those with whom they work.
- Conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner, with fairness, honesty and integrity.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by their individual county Master Gardener Volunteer program, the OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program, and Ohio State University Extension.
- Not engage in abusive behaviors that physically or verbally threaten or harm any Extension program participant, including youth.
- Not commit a felonious act.
- Comply with all civil rights laws and policies, including but not limited to OSU Extension equal opportunity, anti-discrimination laws, and program participant protection policy.
- Perform duties in a responsible and timely manner as outlined in the job description.
- Report immediately any threats to the volunteer's emotional or physical well-being to the county Extension professional coordinating the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.
- Accept the responsibility to promote and support Master Gardener Volunteer activities in order to develop an effective county, state and national program.
- Handle animals and operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a responsible manner.

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