The Master Gardener Program is a volunteer program for individuals who:

- Enjoy learning about the various areas of horticulture
- Have time to volunteer
- Enjoy being with others who share a common interest in gardening
- Enjoy sharing their knowledge and experience to help others answer their horticulture questions

The Master Gardener program consists of two parts. The first part is a series of volunteer training classes in the fall covering all aspects of horticulture designed to train participants to serve as extension volunteers. The second part consists of various extension volunteer activities.

Classes will be held on Thursdays from 9:00am to 3:30pm from mid-September through mid-December. Classes are taught by Kansas State University faculty and local horticulture experts. Most of the training sessions are held in Newton at the Harvey County Extension office as we train with Harvey, Lyon and Butler Counties. Transportation is available between the Reno County Extension Office and the training site. If there are more participants than available van space, we usually work out a carpooling plan. A one-time registration fee of is required to cover the cost of a Master Gardener reference book and other educational materials. There is a one-time fee of $125 to cover the cost of training.

Volunteers are given 40+ hours of classroom training, a large reference book and hands-on training on many horticulture topics, including:

- Basic Botany
- Soils
- Vegetables
- Tree Identification
- Growing Fruit in Kansas
- Turfgrass
- Flowers
- Herbs
- Plant Health Care
- Trees
- Entomology
- Pesticide Use & Safety
- Landscape Design
- Nuisance Wildlife
- Plant Propagation
- Plant Pathology
- Shrubs
- Ornamental Grasses

Actual Master Gardener status is obtained after completion of the classroom training and volunteering a minimum of 40 hours to The Reno county Extension Master Gardener Program during the following growing season. There are many opportunities to volunteer, including:

- Working in the Master Gardener demonstration gardens (minimum requirement of 10 volunteer hours)
- Hosting a summer garden tour (minimum requirement of 6 volunteer hours)
- Staffing educational booths at various events around Reno County
- Speaking to various groups on gardening topics
- Working with Junior Master Gardeners, 4-H, schools and other youth

In order to maintain active Master Gardener status after the initial year, volunteers are asked to contribute 12 hours of volunteer time and attend 6 hours of continuing education annually. Master Gardeners hold monthly meetings to plan activities and provide continuing education. There are many opportunities to attend educational programs and tours during the year.

For more information or an application, contact:
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