**What Counts?**

**Purdue Master Gardener Program***Revised 1-8-15*

The following quiz is meant to stimulate discussion regarding what counts for credit in the Purdue Master Gardener Program. Your County MG Coordinator will be the one to determine if the activity should be credited; as volunteer hours, volunteer hours if the proposal is revised, educational hours (a.k.a. continuing education or advanced training), or no credit. The responses given below are from the Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator.

1. Digging holes, staking trees, and spreading mulch for a local community beautification project.

# Volunteer Hrs **Volunteer Hrs if Revised** Educational Hrs No Credit

**While community beautification is admirable, the goal of the MG program is education and every effort should be made to make this project an educational opportunity. Make it a demo with signage/labeling, train/supervise other volunteers such as scouts, community service crew, etc.**

2. Travel time to State Fair to work shift at Purdue Master Gardener Booth.

# **Volunteer Hrs** Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs No Credit

**Travel time will be credited for approved volunteer activities.** Travel time is not credited for attending a program to earn educational training hours.

3. Acting as a tour guide at local nature center or other non-Purdue public garden.

# **Volunteer Hrs** Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs No Credit

**As long as it is clear from the start that the volunteer is representing Purdue Master Gardeners while on duty and is not paid for their work.**

4. A Master Gardener volunteer reports 30 hours working at a public education garden in Arizona where they live during the winter.

*Volunteer Hrs Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs No Credit*

The Purdue Master Gardener Program trains volunteers who serve the residents of Indiana and represent Purdue Extension in those educational activities. However, volunteer activities where Purdue MG’s or Purdue Extension has a very clear partnership with another state organization and where that state’s Extension Service is partnering in the activity is acceptable.

5. Pulling weeds in one’s own private garden to prepare for a Master Gardener garden tour or other educational event.

# Volunteer Hrs Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs **No Credit\***

**No credit for pulling weeds. \*Credit may be granted for time spent above & beyond “routine” maintenance if event is an approved MG project. Do not abuse this!**

6. Accepting fee for judging 4-H garden projects at county fair.

# Volunteer Hrs **Volunteer Hrs if Revised\*** Educational Hrs No Credit

**Volunteer can not accept a judging fee as personal income, however may accept travel expenses. \*An alternative is to turn in hours, but decline judging fee or request that 4-H association donate fee amount to local MG association or program.**

7. MG Intern class enrollee turns in 30 volunteer hours during the training series.

# Volunteer Hrs Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs **No Credit\***

**Volunteer hours will only be credited after the participant has completed training and passed the exam, \*except for limited pre-approved supervised activities.**

8. A Master Gardener reports hours for attending monthly MG association meetings.

*Volunteer Hrs Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs No Credit*

**While attending monthly MG meetings is not a reportable activity, the time spent on approved volunteer projects should be reported as part of that project.  Examples might be giving a project report, recruiting volunteers for approved projects, or leading the meeting as president, giving treasurer's report, etc.  If an educational program is presented at the meeting, that portion of the meeting should be reported as educational (advanced training) hours.**

9. Several Master Gardeners report hours working to maintain the landscape beds at their church.

*Volunteer Hrs Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs* *No Credit*

Purdue MG volunteers are to represent Purdue Extension by assisting with home horticulture education for the public. Church buildings are considered private property and just simply maintaining the landscape is not an educational activity that benefits the public. These MG’s are representing their churches not Purdue Extension.

10. Answering customer questions while on the job at Green Gate Garden Center as a paid employee.

# Volunteer Hrs Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs **No Credit\***

**Volunteer work must be unpaid and representing Purdue Extension Master Gardener Program.**

11. Attending a non-Purdue sponsored gardening symposium.

# Volunteer Hrs Volunteer Hrs if Revised **Educational Hrs** No Credit

**Most educational activity related to gardening will be credited as educational hours for time spent in the activity, not to include travel time. Check with local coordinator.**

12. Assisting MG Coordinator with administering Master Gardener Intern Training or gardening-related event for the public.

# **Volunteer Hrs** Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs No Credit

**Volunteer credit will be given, including administrative and clerical assistance such as making copies, assembling handouts, and helping with setup/teardown. The end result is an educational activity.**

13. Making pest control recommendations for a commercial greenhouse grower.

# Volunteer Hrs Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs **No Credit**

**Master gardeners are only to advise regarding home horticulture, NOT commercial clientele. All commercial growers should be referred to the appropriate Purdue Extension staff.**

14. Researching and preparing slides/PowerPoint presentation to local garden club.

# **Volunteer Hrs** Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs No Credit

**Reasonable credit will be given for time spent preparing for approved volunteer activities. What is considered reasonable is at the discretion of the local coordinator.**

15. Delivered produce from Master Gardener demo garden to local food pantry.

# **Volunteer Hrs** Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs No Credit

**As long as it is made clear that the donation is from Purdue Master Gardener program. Better still, combine the delivery with an educational opportunity, such as distributing Extension bulletins on how to grow or use the produce.**

16. Time spent serving as MG association officer or committee member.

# **Volunteer Hrs** Volunteer Hrs if Revised Educational Hrs No Credit

**Volunteer credit can be granted for activities that support educational efforts. Check with your local coordinator regarding specific activity.**

17. Master Gardener reports what appears to you to be an excessive number of volunteer activity hours.

# Volunteer Hrs **Volunteer Hrs if Revised** Educational Hrs No Credit

**What is considered reasonable is at the discretion of the local coordinator. Pre-approval of activity should help prevent misunderstanding between volunteer and coordinator.**